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# African Violet

*The magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.*

January • February 2002

Volume 55

Number 1



# AVSA Information

FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITHIN YOUR SOCIETY

FOR ACCURATE SERVICE, SEND YOUR INQUIRIES TO THE CORRECT PERSON. ALWAYS INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

## MEMBERSHIP DUES INCREASE EFFECTIVE OCT. 1, 1999:

Send check payable to AVSA for new or renewable membership to AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702; phone 409-839-4725. Individual \$20, USA only; Individual, all other countries - \$22.50; Commercial USA \$32; Commercial International - \$33.75; Life (USA) - \$275. International Life \$325.00. Remit in U.S. Dollars with draft or check on a USA Bank. See Membership Application. Master Card/Visa accepted.

**AFFILIATES:** Chapter - \$22.00; Council, State or Region - \$22.00.

**MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION:** Send ideas, offers to help, requests for assistance to Nancy Hayes, 9 Cobblestone Rd., Bloomfield, CT 06002.

**AFFILIATES:** For information on Affiliates or how to organize a chapter, write Bev Promersberger, 7992 Otis Way, Pensacola, FL 32506. E-mail promers22@hotmail.com

**SHOW SCHEDULE APPROVER:** For information on Shows, AVSA Awards and Approving Schedules write to: Patricia Sutton, 1707 S. 77 E Ave., Tulsa, OK 74112. E-mail sutpa01@worldnet.att.net. Do not send Show Schedules by e-mail - this address is for information ONLY.

**AVSA OFFICE:** Jenny Daugeau, Administrative Coordinator, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702, 1-800-770-AVSA; 409-839-4725; FAX 409-839-4329. Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. CST. E-mail avsa@earthlink.net

**BEST VARIETIES:** HONOR ROLL COMPILER Floyd Lawson, 1100 W. Huntington Drive, Arcadia, CA 91007.

**BOOSTER FUND:** Send contributions to Shirley Berger, 4343 Schumacher Rd. - 196E, Sebring, FL 33872-2639.

**BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND:** Send contributions to Marlene Buck, 17235 N. 106th Ave., Sun City, AZ 85373-1958.

**BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND:** Send contributions to Mary Walbrick, 5235 Kingston Dr., Wichita Falls, TX 76310-3029

**COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES:** Kent Stork, 2501 E. 23rd Ave. S., Fremont, NE 68025.

**COMMERCIAL SALES & EXHIBITS:** For information on convention entries or sales room, contact Pat Richards, 15105 S. Seminole Dr., Olathe, KS 66062-3004.

**CONVENTION AWARDS:** Jan. issue. Send suggestions or contributions for convention awards to Sue Hoffman, 801 N. Villier Ct., Virginia Beach, VA 23452.

**CONVENTION PROGRAM:** Send special requests for workshop programs or interesting speakers to Linda Owens, Convention Director, 1762 Sternwood Drive, Columbus, OH 43228. If interested in sponsoring a national convention in your area, contact Convention Director.

**FUTURE CONVENTION DATES:** Greater DC Area - May 19-26, 2002.

**CULTURE FOLDERS:** (postpaid): 100 to 400 - \$9.00 per 100; 500 to 900 \$8.00 per 100; 1000 and over - \$6.00 per 100.

**SHORT VERSION OF CULTURE FOLDER:** (postpaid): 500 to 1,000 \$20.00 per 500; 1,500 and up \$18.00 per 500.

**JUDGE'S DUPLICATE CARD:** Send self-addressed stamped envelope to Bill Foster, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150.

**JUDGING SCHOOL:** To register a judging school, send request to Elinor Skelton, 3910 Larchwood Rd., Falls Church, VA 22041. A registration fee of \$15 is required.

**LIBRARY:** Order AVSA slide programs and packets from AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702. List in July issue. If you have ideas for a library program or slides to donate, write Ann Nicholas, 3113 Deerfield Dr., Denton, TX 76208-3428.

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**AVM EDITOR:** Ruth Rumsey, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702; 409-839-4725; 1-800-770-2872; FAX 409-839-4329. E-mail rumsey@earthlink.net

**ARTICLES BY MEMBERS, COLUMNISTS AND MEMORIALS:** Send to Editor.

**Please Note: Deadlines -** Articles and Columnists: Jan. issue - Oct. 1; Mar. issue - Dec. 1; May issue - Feb. 1; July issue - Apr. 1; Sept. issue - June 1; Nov. issue - Aug. 1.

**COMING EVENTS:** Send to Editor.

**Coming Events Deadlines:** - Jan. issue - Nov. 1; Mar. issue - Jan. 1; May issue - Mar. 1; July issue - May 1; Sept. issue - July 1; Nov. issue - Sept. 1.

**ADVERTISING MANAGER:** Advertising rates and information: Judith Carter, 1825 W. Lincoln St., Broken Arrow, OK 74012. judycar@flash.net

**ADVERTISING DEADLINES:** Jan./Feb. issue - Nov. 15; Mar./Apr. issue - Jan. 15; May/June issue - Mar. 15; July/Aug. issue - May 15; Sept./Oct. issue - July 15; Nov./Dec. issue - Sept. 15.

**"AND THE WINNERS ARE...":** Send show results to Mary Corondan, 7205 Dillon Ct., Plano, TX 75024.

**BACK ISSUES:** Complete your set now. Request price list of available issues from Beaumont office. Send SASE for list.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS:** Send new address at least 30 days before it is to take effect, along with old address, to AVSA office in Beaumont.

**QUESTION BOX:** Ralph Robinson, P. O. Box 9, Naples, NY 14512 and Dorothy Kosowsky, 712 Cunningham Dr., Whittier, CA 90601.

**MASTER VARIETY LIST:**

**MVL SUPPLEMENTS:** will be published in the AVM. Send any correction and/or description of new cultivars with hybridizer's name to Joe Bruns, 1220 Stratford Lane, Hanover Park, IL 60130.

**FIRST CLASS MVL DISKETTE:** Windows version - \$12.50. Updates \$5.00. Online updates \$5.00 for a year.

**MEMBERSHIP CARDS:** Sent to Associate Members and New Members only. Renewing members receive card on white protective cover of AVM.

**OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE:** AVSA Secretary, Sue Ramser, 2413 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308.

**PLANT REGISTRATION:** Janice Bruns, 1220 Stratford Lane, Hanover Park, IL 60130.

**RESEARCH:** Send suggested projects for scientific research or names of interested, qualified potential research personnel to Dr. Jeff Smith, 3014 W. Amherst Rd., Muncie, IN 47304.

**SHOW ENTRY TAGS:** 100 - \$7.00 postpaid. Order from AVSA Office.

**QUESTIONS ON HYBRIDIZING:** Dr. Jeff Smith, "In Search of New Violets" The Indiana Academy, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306.

## Prepay your dues for up to 3 years and receive Membership Discount:

**\$20 Individual (USA) 1 Year**  
**\$39 - 2 Years    \$58 - 3 Years**

**\$22.50 Individual (International) 1 Year**  
**\$43.00 - 2 Years    \$64.50 - 3 Years**

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POSTMASTER: Please send change of address form 3579 to African Violet Magazine, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702

# African Violet

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#### Bogeyman

Best Variegated

Semiminiature

AVSA 2001 National Show

Exhibited by:

**Susan Andresen**

Hybridized by:

**R. Scott**



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

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### OFFICERS:

**Jack Wilson**, President  
10007 Bent Tree Ln., Manassas, VA 20111  
email: cagno@aol.com

**Janet Riemer**, 1st VP  
256 Pennington-Harbourton Rd.  
Pennington, NJ 08534-4007  
email: JTRiemer@aol.com

**Linda Owens**, 2nd VP  
1762 Stemwood Dr., Columbus, OH 43228  
email: Ldowens215@aol.com

**Joyce Stork**, 3rd VP  
2501 E. 23rd Ave. S., Fremont, NE 68025  
email: kents@vsonline.net

**Sue Ramser**, Secretary  
2413 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308  
email: ramserwf@wf.net

**Gary Gordon**, Treasurer  
120 Brinkwood Rd., Brookville, MD 20833  
email: ggordon120@aol.com

**Bill Foster**, Immediate Past President  
3610 Gray Drive, Mesquite, TX 75150  
email: bpfoster@airmail.net

### STAFF:

**Ruth Rumsey**, Editor  
2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702  
email: rumsey@earthlink.net

**Judith Carter**, Advertising Manager  
1825 W. Lincoln St., Broken Arrow, OK 74012  
email: judycart@flash.net

**Barbara Pershing**, Publications  
8134 Buck Ridge, Cedar Falls, IA 50613  
email: barbara.pershing@uni.edu

**Floyd Lawson**, Best Varieties, Honor Roll  
1100 W. Huntington Dr., #21, Arcadia, CA 91007  
email: floydll@earthlink.net

**Anna Jean Landgren**, Tally Time  
2450 Iroquois Road, Wilmette, IL 60091  
email: geoaj@aol.com

Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.

Happy  
New Year



# President's Message



Dear AVSA Members,

Your Executive Committee had their fall meeting at the Mid-Atlantic African Violet Societies (MAAVS) Convention in Raleigh, NC. We thank the many MAAVS members who made our stay so enjoyable. Our meetings took over nine hours to complete, but we made many decisions that will improve our service to you.

We approved the purchase of two new computers for the AVSA office. Our present computers do not have the capacity to be upgraded to the new software used for our membership records. We will ensure that the new computers have excess capacity so future software upgrades can be accommodated.

The committee spent much time reviewing suggested changes to the AVSA Policies and Procedure Manual. Most changes were administrative changes requiring no AVSA Board action. One discussion item was the sales tables at our national conventions. Our P&P manual only allows for two sales tables at the national conventions. These are the Ways & Means and Future Convention tables. Because we have such energetic committee chairs for our various funds, over the years they have established sales tables on their own. To keep the funds from competing among themselves, the Executive Committee decided to follow the P & P manual. We still have the Booster and Building Maintenance Funds, but they will not have a table at convention.

Ken Barbi and his Entries Committee for the DC 2002 Convention prototyped their speedier entries procedures at MAAVS. With the membership's help, he will make the process even more speedy. Elsewhere in this issue is an article requesting donations of used laptop computers. Ken is planning that several members will be able to enter plants at once.

The 2002 DC Convention is shaping up to be one of the biggest and best ever. The various committees have their plans in place and are anxious to have everyone arrive and share in the good times. It is so pleasing to talk to members around the country and have them say they want this convention to be extra special. Almost 100% of the MAAVS membership plans to attend. We want you to be a part of this special time. Plan on spending some extra time in the area and see this great nation's capital city. It is really a unique opportunity. Come to convention and see one of the loveliest cities in the world.

Linda Owens, our 2nd VP and Convention Chairman announced that Tucson, Arizona would host the 2004 National AVSA Convention. Won't that be a great new area to visit?

Our Boyce Edens Research Fund provides the necessary funding for the many research projects AVSA supports. Marlene Buck and Margaret Cass provide the leadership for this very important committee. While the committee will be 50 years old in 2002, Marlene and Margaret have only been chairs since 1985. Isn't it terrific that we have such great people in AVSA who will do these very necessary jobs for us? Thanks ladies.

Over the years, many valuable research projects have been completed that have provided us with useful information on how to control both insects and diseases. Dr. Jeff Smith, our Research Chairman, has several exciting projects planned. He described two new products that have potential for helping us in our fight against many of the common problems we experience. One product is a combination miticide/insecticide/fungicide. Wouldn't it be great to have a product that would control mites, thrips, and powdery mildew in one application? He has started research on these products with African Violets. Watch for more information in Dr. Smith's articles in the African Violet Magazine.

Iris Keating, our Plant Registration & International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants Chairman, and Janet Riemer, our 1st VP and Archivist, have the plant registration project underway. Once the project is completed, AVSA will have all plant registrations in a permanent (100 years) format. Thanks to all of you who contributed monies to this project through the Booster Fund.

Many of us grow other gesneriads. I have increased my gesneriad variety list many times over the last several years. If you've not grown any of the other fascinating gesneriads, check out the American Gloxinia & Gesneriads Society's web page at: <http://aggs.org> This is a terrific site with many pictures of their recent convention. Congratulations to the many AVSA members who won awards.

May 2002 is getting closer. Get those plants in show condition so you can take home some of the many outstanding awards that will be given at the biggest and best convention yet.



Sincerely,

John E. (Jack) Wilson  
AVSA President

# Editor's Notes



Ruth Rumsey • 2375 North Street • Beaumont, Texas 77702  
(409) 839-4725 • email [rumsey@earthlink.net](mailto:rumsey@earthlink.net)

**The Purple Pages Convention Insert will appear in the March/April African Violet Magazine. For up to date information on the Washington, DC 2002 Convention, visit AVSA's web site [www.avsa.org](http://www.avsa.org).**

Our Washington, DC Convention is scheduled for May 19 - 26th, 2002, and we are urging everyone to attend this exciting convention in our nation's capital. Please look for the convention information in the March issue.

**If you would like to get your Convention and Hotel Registration forms earlier, please download them from the AVSA web site.**

**Affiliated Club Officers** - please check with your local club members who do not have Internet access and see if they would like you to make a copy of the registration forms available to them from our web site. I urge all of you planning to join us at the convention to get these completed forms in to the AVSA Office as soon as possible.

...

Thank you, **Dale Martens**, for your many years of writing the "Gesneriad-Advice" column for this magazine. Dale is not only a pleasure to work with but also a very generous and talented lady.

**Georgene Albrecht**, author of the "A Family Portrait" column, which graced this magazine for many years, is back with us. Please read Georgene's return column on page 14.

My friend, **Richard Follett**, has written a timely article addressing a topic of interest to all who mail order African violets. Please take the time to read "AV Vendors 101: Getting the Plants you WANT" on page 24.

The advertisers in this magazine are all AVSA Commercial Members who support our society by advertising in the AVM. Please support them and all they do for AVSA. If you have questions about advertising, please contact our Advertising Chairman, Judith Carter.

All AVSA Business Information is listed in the inside front cover of this magazine. Please use this easy reference when contacting one of our committee chairmen.

...

When submitting your club's Coming Event, please use the form below if submitting by US mail or Fax. If submitting by email, please list your information in the order seen below.

PLEASE adhere to the deadlines for submission of Coming Events and Ads. Once the magazine is at the printer, I cannot make additional entries.

*Happy New Year!*



To ensure that all of your information is correctly printed for Coming Events, please copy the form below and use it to send in your club announcement.

Type if possible, if not, PLEASE PRINT. Also, please copy on regular size (8½ x 11) piece of paper. Thank you for your cooperation.

month and date(s) state

club name and event

location (including place and address, city, state)

dates and times

name and phone number for more information

## ATTENTION: INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS WASHINGTON, DC CONVENTION 2002

Due to the events of 9/11, our convention forms are not in this issue, but will appear in the March/April 2002 AVM.

By mid-January, the convention information should be on the AVSA web site <[www.avsa.org](http://www.avsa.org)>. You may use the form on the web site to have your registration reach the AVSA Office as soon as possible.

If you cannot access the Internet to obtain your convention forms, write to the AVSA Office, 2375 North, Beaumont, Texas 77702, USA, and we will mail you a copy.

## THE GOOD NEWS IS.....

Nancy Hayes

*AVSA Membership and Promotion Committee*



The good news is that AVSA receives nearly 3000 new members each year, great, right? At first glance it certainly is good. But, and there is often a but, the bad news is that we lose nearly the same amount from lack of renewal. Most non-profit horticultural organizations in this country are having the same retention problems we are.

We need to show that we are NOT the same as they are. We need to keep our numbers stable AND grow! To that end, your AVSA Membership and Promotion Committee is working very hard. Our goal this year is to contact as many new members as possible. Most of those contacts will be by letter in the first month or two after that member receives their first magazine. This committee has restored my faith in mankind. They are volunteering to write, call, and e-mail as many mem-

bers as possible. I believe that we contact at least half of all new memberships, if not more. Many members of the committee are also volunteering to go back and reconnect with these members near to their renewal date.

All AVSA members in their affiliate organizations can help us by making that new member most welcome and promote AVSA to them. There are many clubs in this country that attempt to require new members to join AVSA in their first year as local affiliate members. Their philosophy is that they join, and they will stay! We sure hope that is right! We have 27 members of this committee spread out from coast to coast and Canada. We are there to serve you as our members, and if we can help, please contact us, and we will attempt to do whatever we can.

## AVSA COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

We are proud to announce the guidelines of the AVSA College Scholarship, available for the third year.

- Applicants must be enrolled in a 4 year undergraduate program or in a graduate program in Ornamental Horticulture, Floriculture, or an equivalent program.
- Applicants should have completed 24 semester or quarter hour credits by completion of the fall 2001 semester, with a minimum "B" grade average.

The award is \$1,000, which may be used for tuition, books or fees.

This is a one-time award with the opportunity to reapply in subsequent years, and is funded by the Boyce Edens Research Fund.

Applications may be downloaded from AVSA's web site, [avsa.org](http://avsa.org), or may be ordered from the AVSA Office - AVSA Scholarship Application, 2375 North St., Beaumont, TX 77702.

All completed applications should be mailed to:

Dr. Charles Ramser

2413 Martin Street • Wichita Falls, TX 76308

# For Beginners



**Al & Cathy Cornibe**  
197 Archer Drive  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
*e-mail: cathycornibe@aol.com*

Happy New Year! If you make resolutions, make one to spend more time with your plants this year. A little "tender loving care" can transform your plants into gorgeous African violets.

## WHAT "WORKS FOR US"

We are always happy to share what works for us. If you are a beginner, you will be surprised at how easy African violets are to grow.

### START WITH HEALTHY PLANTS

Before we purchase an African violet, we look it over carefully. If we see any signs of pests or diseases, we don't buy it.

If you don't know how to spot problems, refer to the *AVSA Handbook*. It is an excellent book, covering many topics including pests and diseases. If you don't have it, use the Order Form in this issue to purchase a copy. You'll be glad you did.

Since African violets grow from their center outward, a healthy center is very important. We look for one with soft leaves that are growing normally (not twisted or deformed).

We prefer to buy small plants. They are less expensive and adjust to our environment faster than larger ones.

### ISOLATION

All new plants, as well as ones returning from a show, are isolated for several months to make sure they are healthy. These are kept as far away as possible from our other African violets. During isolation, plants are repotted so we can examine their roots.

### PROPAGATING OUR NEW PLANTS

As soon as we get a new plant, we propagate it. This way, if the new plant dies, we will have babies coming up soon.



Leaves are the easiest means of propagation. We select one or two young, healthy, firm leaves from the new plant, and cut each petiole at approximately a 45 degree angle with an exacto-knife.

If the new plant is a chimera, which doesn't come true from leaves, we look for suckers to remove. The leaves, or suckers, are put into pots with a 50-50 mixture of soil and perlite.

### LIGHT

Our African violets are grown on plant stands, under artificial lights. The light fixtures, each with two cool-white fluorescent bulbs, are on timers.

Al's plants, grown at work, receive 10 hours of light a day. Cathy only needs 8 hours a day, due to the reflected light from our white walls and her stands, adjacent to each other.

Before a show, we use our pre-show schedule to increase the light. We included it in the September/October 2000 AVM column. If you don't have that issue, and want to try it, just mail us a self-addressed, stamped envelope with a note requesting it. We'll be happy to send you a copy.

### FANS

Two fans, connected to our plant stand timers, run each day. By circulating the air, we rarely get powdery mildew.

### WATER AND FERTILIZER

Watering our African violets twice a week, with lukewarm tap water, keeps our soil moist. You may need to water yours more often, or less often, than us. Watering needs depend on many variables, such as the type of pot, soil, temperature, watering method, etc.

Our tap water has a high level chlorine so we use a chemical (sold in pet shops) to remove it. If we don't, the foliage becomes brittle.

If the soil is extremely dry (which means we forgot to water them), we give each plant a small amount of water.

After an hour or two, each plant gets a little more water until the soil is moist again.

We fertilize our African violets almost every time we water them. Since there are many excellent fertilizers on the market, we alternate several different brands. With only one-sixteenth to one-eighth of a teaspoon of fertilizer to a gallon of lukewarm water, our plants are healthy and bloom year-round.

We never fertilize our plants when they are under stress. Therefore, we never fertilize when...

our plants have just returned home from a show,  
the weather is extremely hot or extremely cold,  
our plants were just repotted, or  
when their soil is extremely dry.

### BAKING SOIL, PERLITE AND SAND

We **always** bake our African violet soil (really a "soil-less" mix), perlite, and sand before we use them. This is one of the best tips we can give you.

After our oven is preheated to 180 degrees, we add a pan of soil, perlite or sand. When the thermometer, in the center of the pan, reaches 180 degrees, we reduce the setting to 175 degrees. We bake for another 30 minutes to kill nematodes, fungi, insects, and weed seeds.

### REPOTTING

We try to repot all plants twice a year. If we don't, the longer we wait, the worse they look.

Before we repot a new plant, we look it up in *AVSA's Master List of Species and Cultivars*. We need to know, for example, if it was registered as a miniature, semiminature, standard, or trailer so we know which size pot to use. Equally important is its correct name for the pot's label, which also lists the repotting date.

If the new plant is not listed there, we look in Master List supplements (November • December issue), commercial catalogs, or the Registration Report (usually in each issue).

Our miniatures go into 2 1/4 inch, or smaller, pots. Semiminatures go into 2 1/2 inch, or smaller, pots. Standards

go into a pot that is one-third of the plant's diameter. (For example, a 4-inch pot is used for a 12-inch standard.) Trailers go into a pot that looks appropriate for its size.

There are many excellent soils. We combine three different ones so our plants receive one-third of each. If one company has a quality control problem, or changes its formula, our plants don't suffer. If one goes out of business, we replace it and our plants don't seem to notice.

In our plastic pots, we add a layer of perlite, then soil around the new plant (centered in the pot). Perlite provides for better drainage and more oxygen to the roots. In our Moist-rites, we add a layer of coarse sand, a layer of perlite, and then the soil around the plant.

### TEMPERATURE

African violets like the same temperatures as we do. In the winter, if it goes below 60 degrees, a heater comes on. During the summer, fans help to keep the plant room cooler.

### HUMIDITY

Most of our plants sit on top of egg crating with water below. This keeps our humidity at 55-60%. With high humidity, our plants are healthier, leaves are softer, and blooms are bigger and last longer.

### EXPERIMENTING

Cathy experiments to find out "what works for us". For example, she recently read that African violets can be submerged under 120 degree water to kill pests and their eggs. So she tried it on a few plants.

A candy thermometer made sure the water, in a large bowl, was 120 degrees. Part of an old stocking, wrapped under the leaves and around the pot, kept the soil in place while Cathy submerged each plant for about a minute.

So far, those plants are doing fine. If you want to try this, or anything else new, experiment on only one or two plants. What works for one grower may not work for another.

**If you have any questions regarding how we grow our African violets, email us.**

## In Memoriam J. C. Munk



The violet world lost a gentleman and "a gentle man" on August 28, 2001, when J.C. Munk passed away at his home in Houston, Texas. He and his wife of 54 years, Lenora, were the owners of the African Violet Shop in Houston and charter members and organizers of the Spring Branch African Violet Club. Many of us knew J.C. because of his beautiful hybrids, especially the "Apache" and "Rodeo" series.

Lenora intends to continue running their shop for

the present and also offer the last of J. C.'s hybrids. She will keep hosting the club's meetings and sharing J. C.'s wonderful legacy of beautiful violets and the techniques of growing them. All of us who were privileged to know this "gentle giant of violets" hope that the plants he loved so well continue to be a joy to many in the years to come.

*Judy Carter, past Secretary of Lone Star AV Council*

# INFORMATION FOR AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE COLLECTORS

by Bill Paauwe

Collecting and organizing a set of the *African Violet Magazine* is a challenge because of the changes that have occurred in the number of issues published per year and the time periods in which the volume and issue numbers changed since the first *African Violet Magazine* was published in 1947. The question, "how many issues of the AVM were published each year" was posed to the AVConnection Internet group; a question that I knew was not easily answered as I had just recently organized my collection into notebooks. After a bit of research, I made a matrix listing the volumes and issues by years and months. The following is a summary:

- The first issues, Volume 1 issue #1 and #2 were published in 1947 (no months listed).
- 1948 – 4 issues: Volume 1 #3 and #4 and Volume 2 #1 and #2 (no months specified).
- 1949 – 4 issues Volume 2 #3 and #4 and Volume 3 #1 and #2. The first time the month was used in the date was Volume 3 #1 – September.
- 1950 through 1967 (Volumes 3 through 19), 4 issues – March, June, September and December with Issue #1 always being the September issue.
- In 1967, Volume 20, the September issue was #5 and Volume 21, Issue #1 was the December issue (4 issues that year).

- In 1968 through 1970, 5 issues – January, March, June, September and November or December with the last issue of the year Issue #1.
- In 1971, the December issue was Volume 24 Issue #6.
- January 1972 started as Volume 25 #1.
- 1972 through 1985 – five issues per year with the January issue always Issue Number 1.
- In 1986 – 6 issues per year starting with Volume 39 #1. The dual month, i.e., Jan/Feb, began with the Sept/Oct 1986 issue and this is the current way the Volume/Issue/Date is done.

During the 1970's, there were two parts to the magazine for some years. The January issue Part II was the cumulative index for the past year or years (some indexes covered several years) and Part II (September) was the Master Variety List for the year.

Volume and Issue Numbers were used in the Cumulative Indexes up until 1980 when months were used to identify the publication dates for the articles. Separate annual indexes were last published in 1980. There was no cumulative index for 1981, and since 1982, a yearly cumulative index has been printed in the January issue for the previous year.



## The Trials of Reducing

by Jean Hayston

Some time ago, I wrote an article drawing attention to the similarity of African violets and guinea pigs. If you don't see the likeness, try and get hold of a little booklet called "Pigs is Pigs" which describes the troubles of a railway officer who was responsible for a consignment of guinea pigs that multiplied whilst in his care to such an extent as to cause great problems.

I had this problem with my violets, and a couple of years ago, I decided something had to be done. With advancing years, a house, a garden, a dog and only me to do everything that had to be done, I found that my violets were suffering. Rather than see them substandard, I decided to reduce numbers.

Drastic measures were called for. I disposed of my light stands, keeping only one four foot, freestanding light. I decided I would grow only minis. However, after some months, I found

that minis did not satisfy, and I looked longingly at some of the standards and weakened.

I have a bright sunroom where I have set up my one four foot light stand and am now trying to grow in part natural light and part fluorescent. I am finding it working quite well. I now have room for twenty standards and maybe ten minis at the outside, and so I must keep strictly to the limited space that I have. I am happy to have a smaller number of plants that are doing well because I can give them the attention they need.

And so I have reduced - not my weight, but my number of violets and am finding I can enjoy less rather than more.

From *The African Violet*,  
publication of The AV Association of Australia, Inc.

# Washington 2002 AVSA Convention Show Entry Procedures

by Kenneth W. Barbi, Annapolis, Maryland  
Washington 2002 Entries Chairman

A new AVSA Show entries process has been developed and successfully tested at the Mid-Atlantic African Violet Society Convention at Raleigh, North Carolina, November, 2001. This procedure will be used at the 2002 AVSA Convention in Washington, DC, and may be used at other national conventions in the future.

When registering at the convention site, you will be asked to indicate the time and number of plants you will be entering on the single day of entries (Thursday). This will allow us to efficiently schedule the entry process. Only exhibitors scheduled for Thursday tours will be able to enter exhibits between 6 pm and 9 pm, Thursday evening. They must provide their Entry Sheet (described below) before they leave on tours to ensure that space will be reserved for their exhibits. All DESIGN classes will be pre-entered, so design exhibitors can go directly to their niches to work.

Here's what you need to know to make the process work:

**Step One** - when you arrive in the entries area, you will be greeted by the Entries Coordinator dressed like Uncle Sam who will give you an Instruction/Entry sheet, temporary plant ID cards, plastic name stakes, and assign you to a grooming table. *Copies of the Instruction/Entry sheet are available as a PDF file on the AVSA 2002 Convention WEB site at [www.avsa.org/NationalConvention.html](http://www.avsa.org/NationalConvention.html), and will be sent to you by the AVSA Office if you indicate you will be entering plants when you register for the convention.*

**Step Two** - at the grooming table, you will prepare your plants, fill out the Entry Sheet, and indicate whether you want the Convention Plant Maintenance Committee NOT to water your plants during the show. Make sure your name and address are under the pot.

**Step Two A** - you must fill out the temporary plant ID card with the plant name, your name (bring some name and address labels to stick on), and the class. *The AVSA Entries Computer Program will print the final stake name and entries cards.*

**Step Two B** - place the plastic name stake (holding the temporary plant ID card) into the pot. If you have a tight leafed plant such as a *Petrocosmea*, do not stake it.

**Step Three** - when you are ready to enter your plants, the Entries Coordinator will direct you to one of the four Classification Teams. *We will have three fully manned teams: an express team for amateurs and commercials (5 or fewer plants), an amateur team (6 or more plants), and a commercial team (6 or more plants). A fourth team will be available as required.*

**Step Four** - when your plants have been through classification/entries, they become exhibits and our placement team will move them - you're DONE!



## You Need a TAX Break - AVSA Needs Your Laptops

by Kenneth W. Barbi • Annapolis, Maryland

In May, our national convention will be held in Washington, DC. A new show entries procedure has been developed to streamline the entries process.

To make this process work in Washington, and at other national convention sites in the future, the AVSA Executive Committee has approved the inclusion of six laptop computers and one printer as part of our AVSA Convention Properties.

I have been asked to obtain and set up this initial system. To do this, I need YOUR HELP!

As AVSA is a non-profit organization, you can donate old laptops and printers to the society and receive a *Donation In*

*Kind* letter you can use to take a tax write off on your 2001 Federal Income Tax. Please check your home and business for old laptop computers and printers you would like to replace, and donate them to AVSA. We need Windows 95 (or better) capable laptop computers running at 75 MHz or faster, and any kind of laser or ink jet printer. Laptop network cards and network hubs are also needed.

To arrange for pick up, please contact me:  
(410) 757-5044

Email: [barbik@st-margarets.org](mailto:barbik@st-margarets.org)

# In Search of New Violets



**Dr. Jeff Smith**  
The Indiana Academy  
Ball State University  
Muncie, IN 47306  
[JSmith4@bsu.edu](mailto:JSmith4@bsu.edu)

For readers who may have been trying to write me by e-mail and have not been successful, my e-mail address was recently changed. For future contacts, please use this e-mail address: [Jsmith4@bsu.edu](mailto:Jsmith4@bsu.edu)

The questions for much of this month's column are actually the results of a series of discussions that occurred over e-mail. Thanks to Bill Daniels for the stimulating discussions about the girl foliage trait.

**Q:** *Why is the white leaf base characteristic of girl foliage not considered to be a form of leaf variegation?*

**A:** Leaf variegation is usually defined as the presence of non-green areas in a leaf. For various reasons, the plant does not produce the green organelle called chloroplasts in parts of the leaf. This lack of green pigment produces the characteristic white coloration associated with variegated foliage. I suspect that girl foliage was thought to be a growth modification of the leaf, especially in the area where the leaf base and petiole join. While this area is usually white or cream colored, it is a growth change, not a mutation in the chloroplasts. Because of this difference, I suspect the mutation of normal foliage to girl foliage was not thought to be a strict form of leaf variegation.

There may be a historical reason also. Variegated African violets were reported very early. The first national African violet show in 1946 reported several plants with white streaks or variegation in their foliage. These mutations were random and the pattern of non-green areas differed from leaf to leaf and plant to plant. It was also very difficult to reproduce the variegation through leaf cuttings. Girl foliage was first reported in 1941 and does come true from leaf cuttings. The ability to reproduce the trait through leaf cuttings may have contributed to the reasons why girl foliage was not thought to be a form of leaf variegation.

**Q:** *Girl foliage was a mutation of 'Blue Boy,' one of the original ten Armacost and Royston hybrids. Why is this leaf mutation so different from the variegated Tommie Lou mutation?*

**A:** The main difference between girl foliage and Tommie Lou variegation is in the location of the non-green areas of the leaves. Girl foliage produces non-green areas only at the leaf base where the petiole joins the leaf blade. Tommie Lou variegation shows up in the edges of the leaf blade itself, and can cover a more extensive area of the leaf. Tommie Lou variegation was clearly a mutation in the chloroplasts of the leaf, not a change in the growth and development of the leaf blade/petiole junction as in girl foliage. Tommie Lou variegation is reproducible from leaf cuttings, unlike all of the earlier spontaneous leaf variegations, and can also be passed on through sexual reproduction (by maternal inheritance through the seed parent). Because it could be produced asexually and sexually, Tommie Lou variegation was a valuable mutation to hybridizing programs.

**Q:** *The girl foliage mutation produces leaves with a white leaf base, ruffled foliage, and usually results in a smaller plant size. Since multiple traits are affected, isn't this mutation a multiple gene trait involving more than one gene?*

**A:** The girl foliage mutation is an excellent example of genetic event called pleiotropy. Pleiotropy refers to the situation in which one gene influences more than one physical trait. For example, genes that control growth and development in the organism often show multiple changes when they mutate. The ruffled edges of girl foliage and the white spot at the leaf base can both be explained by changes in the timing of cell division in these parts of the leaf.

Scientists now understand that cell division and growth in



organisms is a balance of brakes and stimulants. In the case of girl foliage, I suspect that one of the "brakes" has failed to work, allowing the cells to grow and divide longer than they should. The resulting increase in growth on the edges of the leaf produces the ruffled edges while a similar increase in growth at the leaf base produces the white spot. If both copies of the brake are defective (such as in the homozygous condition), then the cells continue to divide even longer, producing more extremes in ruffling and the size of the leaf base. Hybridizers have known for some time that homozygous girl foliage plants have very abnormal foliage and that the amount of abnormal growth increases with the age of the leaf.

The diverting of resources to the growth and cell division in the edges and leaf base likely causes the decrease in overall plant size. The plant can only support so much growth. With the resources going to the leaf edges, little material is left for increasing the size of the plant.

**Q:** *How can a mutation like girl foliage become a dominant genetic trait?*

**A:** In the case of girl foliage, think of the "brake" analogy mentioned earlier. The gene in question normally works by stopping cell growth and division. If the gene is mutated and no longer functions, growth is no longer under the control of the "brake" and the changes will automatically be expressed in

the phenotype of physical appearance of the plant. A genetic dominant trait is defined as one that is always expressed if present. Once the "brake" fails, the trait is always expressed, so we would label the mutation as a dominant genetic trait.

**Q:** *Do scientists know the chromosome location or address of the girl foliage mutation?*

**A:** I'm not aware that the girl foliage mutation has been mapped to a specific chromosome site. Perhaps the genome work that is currently being done in other species will allow this to happen in the near future.

**Q:** *What is the difference in plants that describe the leaves as having "modified girl foliage"?*

**A:** Plants that are described as having "modified girl foliage" differ from regular girl foliage by having less extreme expressions of the ruffled edges and white leaf base spot. In some plants, the edges are only slightly ruffled and the white leaf base spot may be nearly non-existent. I would speculate that this may represent another genetic allele, or alternate form of the gene. In this case, the "brake" partially works so that some control of the cell growth takes place, but not enough to entirely show the normal phenotype. Genetically, I would guess the alternate allele to be a dominant to normal or boy foliage and recessive to regular girl foliage.

## Potting Up Plantlets

by Carolyn Conlin-Lane

• Scarborough, ON, Canada

I personally pot up plantlets when I have the time (a very rare commodity at my house!). As long as they are a size that YOU are comfortable with, you can go ahead with the procedure. I don't believe in waiting until they reach a precise size. I tend to work with them while still small - for semis, the leaves may even be smaller than 1/8" long. Often, there will only be two or three tiny leaves. I knock the whole works out of the pot and separate each baby plant from the parent leaf. I do this carefully by hand - no tools. If the plantlet is a good size and has a reasonable amount of roots, then it goes directly into a 2 1/4" or 2 1/2" pot, otherwise a medicine cup or creamer is used. Prior to potting up, I make sure that the creamers and cups have drainage holes poked into them. I sort the plantlets out, and select the best looking three to keep for myself. Even at this tiny stage, you can start to see differences in growth habit. I usually pot up most of the rest to take to club meetings for our raffle table, or I grow them on for the show sales table. The truly tiny or deformed ones get discarded.

As my cuttings are all grown covered in community flats, chiefly to minimize the time that is required to care for them, I usually cover my newly potted up plants for a short time in order to allow them to get established. Plants potted in the smallest containers usually remain covered until ready to graduate to a larger pot. They are usually ready quite quickly, but can be held over in the small containers for quite a long period until space comes free for them on the shelves.

I don't normally use a community pot approach unless I intend for the plant to continue to grow that way (e.g. I am

putting down *Columnea* or *Episcia* tip cuttings) or I am dealing with an extremely rare plant that is worth babying even the tiniest of plantlets. I also do not find that Rootone is necessary, either for repotting or for the original process of putting down a leaf. If the plantlet is entirely without roots, I put a small portion of leaf start mix (perlite, vermiculite and a bit of charcoal) in the center of the pot that has been filled with soil. I then pin the plantlet to the surface of the mix using a halved plastic coated paper clip. This plant will remain covered until it has established its root system.

As for leaf petioles continuing to grow - yes they do sometimes do that! The problem there is that the leaf is concentrating on growing and not on producing babies. The best approach is to cut a small portion of the top of the leaf off with a sharp blade. This can either be done after the leaf has rooted, or right from the start when you put the leaf down. A technique that I find helps with large African violet leaves is to take a sharp blade and cut the leaf down to semiminature size just prior to putting it down. This cuts down on the room required for the cutting, and also minimizes the shade cast by the leaf. If this is done with a very sharp knife, the chance of leaf rot will be lessened.

I also typically discard the parent leaf after removing the babies. The only time I attempt to salvage it is if it is a particularly rare or desirable variety.

*From Chatter, publication of the AVS of Canada*

# “And the winners are ...”



**Mary Corondan**  
7205 Dillon Court  
Plano, TX 75024

**DELTA GESNERIAD AND AVS, CA – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*, *Saintpaulia orbicularis* var. *purpurea*, *Saintpaulia ionantha*; Best in Show/Best Standard/Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Miniature: Frosted Denim; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **June Fallaw**. Best Trailer: Mission Trail, **Barbara Elkin**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia cupreata*, **Lynn Lombard**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Mae Mendes**.

**MILWAUKEE AVS, WI – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rebel's Flaming Star, Coral Sunset, Rodeo Country; Best in Show/Best Standard: Rodeo Country, **Ann Berginc**. Best Gesneriad: *Aeschynanthus hildebrandtii*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Joan Wilson**. Best Semiminiature: Pink Skies, **Bozidar Berginc**. Best Miniature: Optimara Little

Crystal; Best Trailer: Rob's Lilli Pilli, **Mickey Eberle**. Best Design, **Irene Merrell**.

**SUNDOWNERS' AVS, LA – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rodeo Country, Love Ya, Jeannette's Pure Sin; Best in Show/Best Standard: Love Ya; Best Trailer: Cherokee Trail, **George Ramirez**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Barbara Jane Trail, Ellie Gardner, Cherokee Trail; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Rob's Little Pueblo, Moonsilk; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Martha Dyson**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Swizzle Stick, Rob's Heat Wave, Ness' Cranberry Swirl; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Fuzzy Navel; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Popsicle', **Robert Truax**. Best Miniature: Honey Puff, **Fran Spear**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Elmer Godeny**.

## Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene J. Buck  
17235 N. 106th Avenue  
Sun City, AZ 85373-1958

Donations received from August 1, 2001 - September 30, 2001

Heart of Missouri AVS, Columbia, MO .....	\$20.00	Central Connecticut AVS, Waterbury, CT .....	\$25.00
<i>In memory of Joseph D. Schulz</i>		<i>In memory of Harriett Clinton</i>	
North Star AV Council, Minneapolis, MN .....	15.00	Aloha H. Rhodes, Austin, TX .....	25.00
Memphis AVS, Memphis, TN .....	25.00	<i>In memory of J. C. Munk</i>	
<i>In memory of Cloy Fowler</i>		Susan Storey, San Marcos, TX .....	10.00
Central Connecticut AVS, Southern, CT .....	50.00	<i>In memory of J. C. Munk</i>	
<i>In memory of Florence England a special member of our club</i>		Copper City AVS, Rome, NY .....	450.00
<i>In memory of Theresa Lyman a special member of our club</i>		<i>Our club has dissolved and we are giving our funds for research</i>	
Delta Gesneriad and AVS, Sacramento, CA .....	15.00	Mid-America AVS, Kansas City, MO .....	20.00
Quad Cities AVS, Davenport, IA .....	25.00	Park Place AVS, Houston, TX .....	10.00
<i>In memory of Noalma Spengler</i>		<i>In memory of J. C. Munk</i>	
Evelyn & George Stein, Tracy, CA .....	10.00	Wade A. Nolan, Jacksonville, FL .....	5.00
Florence S. Roberts, Volcan Chiriqui, Panama .....	10.00	Nancy Hagerman, Lafayette, LA .....	20.00
Jack Dumas, Point Lookout, NY .....	5.00	Marie Rafferty, Broomall, PA .....	5.00
Margaret Condit, Locust Grove, OK .....	5.00	Sylvia L. Siegel, Norwalk, CT .....	5.00
Cynthia L. Lere, Flagstaff, AZ .....	25.00	P. A. A. Harkes, Rijsenhout, Netherland .....	7.00
<i>In memory of Yvonne Sanders, my mother, with whom I shared a happy lifetime of growing violets</i>		Martha George, Oklahoma City, OK .....	10.00
AVC of Morris County, NJ .....	15.00	Harry A. Cyster, Medicine Hat, Canada .....	10.00
Ann Langholz, Lavista, NE .....	20.00	Louise King, Sun City, AZ .....	10.00
Mildred Padon, Kevil, KY .....	3.00	Agatha Garrison, Estancia, NM .....	5.00
		T. Gina Mashburn, Buckatunna, MS .....	5.00

# Vintage Violets



**Barbara Elkin**  
*Vintage Violets Committee*  
 2855 Gayle Lane  
 Auburn, CA 95602-9674  
 email: [bjabar@earthlink.net](mailto:bjabar@earthlink.net)

We've all heard of His and Hers. There's His and Hers towels, His and Hers cars, His And Hers bathrooms. You get the idea. In this house, we have His and Hers computers. Mine most definitely is not masculine anymore. I have changed its gender. It's all female from now on.

While in Albuquerque teaching an AVSA Judging School, the masculine half of my marital relationship used my computer. Somewhere my e-mail server and I parted ways.

Earthlink was very good to me and so was the technician I called; however, I could not receive or send any e-mail. Getting back on line meant I lost all my e-mail addresses

## His and Hers?

because I had to use the Recovery Disk. I have a squeaky clean computer.

Please, all of you that read my column send me your e-mail address so I can get your address back in my address book. It's easier to add it from an e-mail than to type them all in.

Yes, I now have a password to access my computer. I won't ever tell him the password, but I'll tell you. It's Barbara.

Remember when someone is good enough to share something with you to always return the postage, asked for or not.

## AVSA Most Wanted

Bagdad  
 Brilliant Lady  
 Buttercup  
 Candlelight  
 Cathy Anschutz  
 Chiffon Marguerite  
 Cordelia  
 Dupont Purple  
 Eileen Dream  
 Fairy Fireworks  
 Fantasy  
 Glenna

Gold Fever  
 Golden Plume  
 Heaven  
 Highbrow  
 Inca Maid  
 Joanne Cora  
 Kamakura  
 Lady Clara  
 Majesty  
 Midnight Star  
 My Lady Sue  
 Nortex's Daydream Haven

Pagan Fire  
 Painted Girl  
 Richter's Step Up  
 Royal Child  
 Sailor Girl  
 Shasta  
 Smile  
 So Rosey  
 Stateliner  
 Sweet Mary  
 Tangier  
 The Parson

The Parson's Nadine  
 The Parson's Wife  
 Triple Threat  
 Twist of Lime  
 Uler's Azure Beauty  
 Valerie  
 White Bloomin' Fool  
 White Girl  
 Winter Grape  
 Wishful Thinking

## AVSA Building Maintenance Fund

Donations received July 24 - October 15, 2001

Mary Walbrick • 5235 Kingston Drive • Wichita Falls, TX 76310-3029

E-mail: [MWalbrick@aol.com](mailto:MWalbrick@aol.com) • Fax: 775-243-0836

AVC of Greater Kansas City, Independence, MO ..... \$10.00  
 AVC of Morris County, Berkeley Heights, NJ ..... 15.00  
 Cross Town AVC, Madison WI ..... 15.00  
 Delta Gesneriad and AVS, Sacramento, CA ..... 15.00  
 FAVS of Spartanburg, Woodruff, SC ..... 10.00  
 First AVS of Wichita Falls, Texas, Wichita Falls, TX. .... 10.00  
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 Garden State AVC, Clarksburg, NJ ..... 5.00  
 North Star African Violet Council, Delano, MN ..... 15.00  
 San Marcos AVC, San Marcos, TX ..... 10.00  
 Windsor African Violet Society, Bloomfield, CT ..... 50.00  
*in memory of Alice Pelkey*  
 Joanne Baker-Pruner, Pasadena, MD ..... 5.00  
 Millissa Culver, Longmont, CO ..... 20.00  
 Martha George, Oklahoma City, OK ..... 10.00  
 Nancy Hagerman, Lafayette, LA ..... 20.00

Nancy & John Hayes, Bloomfield, CT ..... \$25.00  
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 Wade A. Nolan, Jacksonville, FL ..... 5.00  
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 Mildred Padon, Kevil, KY ..... 2.00  
 Frankie Pletzer, Beaumont, TX ..... 25.00  
*in memory of J. C. Munk*  
 George P. Stein, Tracy, CA ..... 10.00  
 Nobuyuki Takano, Sapporo Hokkaido, JP ..... 7.50  
 Barbara D. Taswell-Miller, Raleigh, NC ..... 30.00  
 Howard Terry, Hagarville, AR ..... 5.00  
 Wilma J, Wolverton, Grain Valley, MO ..... 5.00

**TOTAL ..... \$339.50**

# A Family Portrait



**Georgene Albrecht**  
101 Oak Heights Drive  
Oakdale, PA 15071

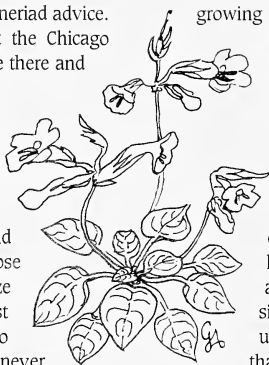
## *Chirita tamiana*

Thank you, Dale Martens, for the great gesneriad advice. Her presentation about judging gesneriads at the Chicago convention was just fabulous. It was good to be there and even better to see new plants and old friends.

It is my belief that the Creator gave us this wonderful plant family to lift our spirits and nurture our strength. I also believe that we were destined to meet in our nation's capital in 2002. Patriotism is born anew. The spirit of our forefathers, who brought democracy and freedom to our country, will give you goose bumps and bring tears to your eyes as you gaze upon memorials and hallowed halls. We must not be afraid. My entire family is connected to the airline industry, and I know that flying has never been safer. Come, enjoy the goodness of our friends, the capital of democracy, and the beauty of our plants. Life doesn't get any better than that.

*Chirita tamiana* is a little cutie guaranteed to win a place in your growing space. In my growing conditions, she never gets much larger than six inches across and thrives with African violet culture. Tami blooms early, and the white flowers last a long time. She does need to be repotted in fresh soil often. She needs to rest a while, and then she will send up another round of bloom. Grow her with a single crown. I made the mistake of taking her to our club meeting one February day. Even though I held her under my winter coat, she got chilled, and the leaves turned to mush. I removed the mush, removed her from the pot, gently wrapped her in damp sphagnum moss, and placed her in a tiny pot. Three months later, she was in bloom again. Although I have not tried, she is probably fertile to set seed. This plant is a must-have.

Everyone at convention was talking about the lack of vermiculite. It just is not going to be around any more. I noticed that Schultz already has a replacement available at our local Walmart. Perlite will continue to be available. However, please remember that the florine must be rinsed from it before you use it. I poke holes in the lower half of the plastic bag and hold it under a hot water faucet. This seems to wash out all the fine dust, too. Never inhale dust from any



growing medium. If you still have vermiculite to use, please, avoid the dust. Ironically, a gentleman from Tanzania told me years ago that the mining of material for vermiculite was destroying the natural habitat of our *Saintpaulia*.

Naturally, new plants came home from the convention. David Thompson grew some absolutely mouth-watering violets and *Streptocarpus*. He even hybridizes, and I got one named *S. 'Femme Fatale'* which has the huge white semidouble flowers with a pink eye and the best ruffled edge ever. Nancy and his sister were all there selling plants. Marcia was, as usual, selling wonderful achimenes rhizomes that turned out to be fabulous. The variety named 'Jennifer Goode' is so vibrant it dazzles the eye. Outdoor light makes it look as if it is a layered, vivid rose over purple pigment. Outstanding!

I asked Rob for a good mini to grow for show, and he handed me *S. 'Rob's Cherry Soda'*. It was the best mini in our recent show and has handsome red-reversed, dark foliage and a huge cluster of pink, deeply ruffled flowers. For some reason, miniatures are not grown in my area. Everyone seems to like the semiminiatures better. The Brownlies have named a lovely plant for me, as has Hortense. I am so honored. ACA's 'Georgene' is doing well, too.

*S. Ness' 'Orange Pekoe'* is so beautiful, with a coral flower on nice variegated foliage. Ruth Bunn's hybrids are beautiful and I enjoyed her presentation at convention. Our local club members are growing a lot of Pat Hancock's hybrids beautifully. I must admit that I need to try to grow standards. Only trouble, is something's got to go, and I hate to do away with the orchids. Dale's *Streptocarpus* 'Texas Hot Chili' is well named. Just a great size, too.

Well, good people, in March it will be time to tear out that convention insert, fill it in, and anticipate one of the best conventions AVSA will ever have. In order to save money, think about rooming with some friends or look for "roomy" information in the March issue. Meet me there. Wishing you all good growing in the New Year.

# 2002 Convention Awards

## Washington D.C.

### Society Awards - Amateur Division

Best African Violet in Show \$50.00 & Tri-color Rosette  
 2nd Best African Violet in Show \$35.00 & Rosette  
 3rd Best African Violet in Show \$25.00 & Rosette  
 Best Standard \$25.00 & Rosette  
 Best Trailer \$25.00 & Rosette  
 Best Semiminiature \$25.00 & Rosette  
 Best Miniature \$25.00 & Rosette  
 Best Species \$25.00 & Rosette  
 Best Vintage Violet \$25.00 & Rosette  
 Best Other Gesneriad \$25.00 & Rosette  
 Sweepstakes in Horticulture \$50.00 & Rosette  
 Sweepstakes Runner-up in Horticulture \$25.00 & Rosette  
 Best Standard Collection \$50.00 & Gold Rosette  
 2nd Best Standard Collection \$25.00 & Purple Rosette  
 Best Mini/Semimini Collection \$50.00 & Gold Rosette  
 2nd Best Mini/Semimini Collection \$25.00 & Purple Rosette

### Society Awards - Design Division Amateur or Commercial

Best Design in Show \$50.00 & Tri-color Rosette  
 2nd Best Design in Show \$35.00 & Rosette  
 3rd Best Design in Show \$25.00 & Rosette  
 Sweepstakes in Design \$50.00 & Rosette  
 Sweepstakes Runner-up in Design \$25.00 & Rosette  
 Society Awards - Commercial Display Tables  
 Best Commercial Display Table \$125.00 & Blue Rosette  
 2nd Best Commercial Display Table \$100.00 & Red Rosette  
 3rd Best Commercial Display Table \$75.00 & White Rosette  
 4th Best Commercial Display Table \$50.00 & Honorable Mention Rosette  
 Best African Violet on Display Tables \$50.00 & Rosette

### Society Awards - Commercial Specimen Plants

Best African Violet in show \$50.00 & Rosette  
 2nd Best African Violet in Show \$35.00 & Rosette  
 3rd Best African Violet in Show \$25.00 & Rosette  
 Sweepstakes in Commercial Specimen Plants \$50.00 & Rosette  
 Best Other Gesneriad \$25.00 & Rosette  
 Best Standard Collection \$50.00 & Gold Rosette  
 2nd Best Standard Collection \$25.00 & Purple Rosette  
 Best Mini/Semimini Collection \$50.00 & Gold Rosette  
 2nd Best Mini/Semimini Collection \$25.00 & Purple Rosette  
 Best New Cultivar \$75.00, Blue Rosette & Plaque  
 2nd Best New Cultivar \$50.00 & Red Rosette  
 3rd Best New Cultivar \$25.00 & White Rosette  
 Specified Awards - Commercial Specimen Division  
 Best Holtkamp Collection \$300.00 & Rosette  
 Holtkamp Greenhouses  
 2nd Best Holtkamp Collection \$200.00 & Rosette  
 Holtkamp Greenhouses  
 3rd Best Holtkamp Collection \$100.00 & Rosette  
 Holtkamp Greenhouses

### Specified Awards - Amateur Division

Best Holtkamp Collection \$300.00, Rosette & Coin  
 Holtkamp Greenhouses

2nd Best Holtkamp Collection \$200.00 & Rosette  
 Holtkamp Greenhouses  
 3rd Best Holtkamp Collection \$100.00 & Rosette  
 Holtkamp Greenhouses  
 Best Robinson Collection \$150.00 & Rosette The Violet Barn  
 2nd Best Robinson Collection \$50.00 The Violet Barn  
 Best African Violet in Show Silver Memorial Award for Fannie & Elmer Hall donated by Ovella Hall  
 Best Standard \$25.00 Memorial Award for Fannie & Elmer Hall donated by Ovella Hall  
 Best Semiminiature \$25.00 Memorial Award for Fannie & Elmer Hall donated by Ovella Hall  
 Best Semiminiature \$25.00 Mid-America African Violet Society (MO)  
 Best Miniature \$25.00 St. Louis African Violet Judges Council  
 Best Trailer \$10.00 Tampa African Violet Society  
 Best Vintage Violet \$25.00 Nancy Hayes  
 Best Species \$50.00 Cape Cod Violetry  
 Best Species Rosette African Violet Society of Western New York  
 Best Variegated Standard \$10.00 Tampa African Violet Society  
 Best Fantasy \$25.00 & Rosette Baltimore African Violet Club  
 Best Standard Chimera \$50.00 & Rosette Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses  
 Best Standard Green Foliage Edged Blossom \$25.00 & Rosette Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses  
 Best Blooming Chirita \$25.00 - National Capital Chapter of AGGS  
 Best Other Gesneriad \$10.00 Tampa African Violet Society

### Specified Awards - Amateur Division - Horticulture

Everdina \$25.00 Hans & Everdina Injini  
 Irish Flirt \$10.00 Tampa African Violet Society  
 Irish Flirt \$25.00 Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses  
 Buckeye Colossal \$25.00 Pat's Patch - Pat Hancock

### Specified Awards - Amateur Division - Design

Best Terrarium \$10.00 Tampa African Violet Society

### Other Awards - Amateur Horticulture or Undesignated

**\$100 donated by:**  
 Lone Star African Violet Council  
 Missouri Valley African Violet Council

**\$50.00 donated by:**  
 Mid-Atlantic African Violet Society  
 Linda Abplanalp  
 Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society  
 (\$5-\$10 awards for other Gesneriads)

**\$30.00 donated by:**  
 African Violet Society of Minnesota

**\$25.00 donated by:**  
 Quad Cities African Violet Society  
 Sue Hoffmann  
 Central Texas Judges Council  
 Jim & Linda Owens  
 Spring Branch African Violet Club (TX)  
 Delores Gibbs  
 Gary Gordon

Danville African Violet Society (VA)  
 North Texas African Violet Judges Council  
 First Nighter African Violet Society of Dallas (TX)  
 Bill & Paula Foster  
 Alpha African Violet Society (TX)  
 TriState African Violet Council (NJ)  
 Ruth & Will Loomis  
 Unpredictables African Violet Society (MO)  
 Mary Boland  
 Wisconsin Club of African Violet Clubs  
 William E.H. Price  
 Delta Gesneriad & African Violet Society  
 Janet Riemer

**\$20.00 donated by:**  
 African Violet Club of Greater Kansas City  
 Tidewater African Violet Society (VA)  
 Linda Golubski  
 Nancy Amelung  
 Martha Turner  
 Mary Walbrick  
 Paul Kroll (*in memory of Annabelle Hart*)

**\$15.00 donated by:**  
 Union County Chapter of African Violet Society  
 Richmond African Violet Club (VA)

**\$10.00 donated by:**  
 Magic Knight African Violet Society  
 Amethyst African Violet Club of St. Louis  
 (African violet award)  
 Roseanne Dudley  
 Celesta Cirkel  
 Mickey Eberle  
 First African Violet Society of Wichita Falls (TX)  
 Sue Ramser  
 Linda Neumann (other Gesneriad award)

**Other**  
 Violet Canvas Tote Bag  
 donated by Catherine Thompson  
 Violet Coffee Mug - Sue Hoffmann

**Other Awards - Design Division**  
 \$50.00 donated by Mid-Atlantic African Violet Society

**\$25.00 donated by:**  
 Kathy Lahti  
 Albuquerque African Violet Club

**\$10.00 donated by:**  
 Amethyst African Violet Club of St. Louis  
 Four, four-piece violet-pattern dessert plate sets  
 donated by Lynda Fairchild

Many thanks to everyone who has so kindly donated awards for the AVSA 2002 Washington D.C. show.

There's still time! You can add your name to the 2002 Convention Awards list. Send your check or item to: **Sue Hoffmann, AVSA Awards chairman**, 801 North Villier Court, Virginia Beach, VA 23452. The deadline is February 15. All awards received after that date will be applied to the 2003 show.



# 2002 AVSA BOARD OF DIRECTOR NOMINEES



**Byron Borck**  
For Director

Byron Borck has been a member of the Fancy Bloomers AVS since 1989. He has held all offices including President, a position he held for seven years. He set up a "Ways and Means" to supply affiliate members with growing supplies

at an economical price, and conducts a "Fellowship Forum" preceding meetings to help any member with a cultural problem. He has even been known to make house calls for those in need of extra help. Byron has developed and provides a soil mix for those interested locally.

He has been show chairman for all four shows sponsored by Fancy Bloomers AVS, and has helped organize violet clinics and sales. He contributes hundreds of plants to these sales. Byron is an avid participant in local fairs, setting up African violet displays, securing judges for the shows, educating the public, and exhibiting.

Currently, Byron is hybridizing a series of violets under the "Sonoma" logo. Some new puff/self fantasies have been produced and will be available soon. He enjoys traveling in the surrounding area to give programs to garden clubs as well as other affiliated societies.

A member of the Northern California Council of AV Societies, he presently serves as chairman. He is also serving as chairman for the Northern California Judges' Council.

On a national level, he is a Life Member of AVSA and an advanced judge. He served as the Convention vice Chairman for the 1998 Sacramento Convention, and was a featured speaker at the 2000 Omaha Convention. At the AVSA 2001 convention in Chicago, Byron was honored with the Hudson Award for Affiliate Leadership.

Retired from teaching, Byron lives with wife, Beth, and two active teenagers. Besides violets, Byron raises Chihuahuas and enjoys many handcrafts.



**David Buttram**  
For Director

David began growing African violets in 1968 as part of a college botany class project on plant nutrition. In March, 1969, he joined AVSA and the African Violet Club of Greater Kansas City where he has

served as board member, newsletter editor, Treasurer, and President.

An interest in hybridizing prompted David to become an AVSA Commercial member in 1974. He sold plants and supplies primarily through the mail and at conventions and shows. David became a judge in the early 1970s, advancing to the then Lifetime certificate.

David was elected to the AVSA board in 1982. He was named Chairman of the Commercial Activities Committee in 1985 and served eleven years in that position. In 1985, he also began writing the popular column, "Commercials: A Closer Look," for the African Violet Magazine. He compiles the Vacation Guide, which appears annually in the May-June issue of the AVM.

Other committees David has served on include Ways and Means, Membership, Nominating, Site Selection, Typesetting and Printing, and International. He was recently awarded an Honorary Life Membership to the African Violet Club of Greater Kansas City.

David and his wife, Beth, like to travel and visit African violet friends. Both work in a Christian publishing organization of which David is President.



**Janice Davidson**  
For Director

A native of Choctaw, Oklahoma, I have been married to my husband, Ron Davidson, for thirty-seven years. We have two daughters and one grandson, and are expecting our second grandchild in June 2002. Having spent

twenty-five years traveling around the world with the US Army, we are now retired from the military and live just south of Dallas, in Red Oak, Texas.

I am a Life Member of AVSA and a senior judge. I'm also a member of Lone Star African Violet Council, currently serving as Vice-President; the First African Violet Society of Dallas; currently Show Chairman and Vice-President in charge of programs and the North Texas Judges Council. In the past I have served in all offices of my local club and Judges Council, including President. I have also served as Show Chairman for local clubs and the state convention.

I have exhibited African violets, gesneriads and designs in the local, state, regional and national conventions and shows, having won the Tri-color awards for the Best in Show and the sweepstakes awards for both Horticulture and

Design. I have attended nine AVSA conventions including the last eight, and have exhibited in seven of them.

Although I enjoy all kinds of arts and crafts projects, as well as growing African violets, my greatest joy is taking care of my grandson, Brandt, as his mother works. I'm looking forward to the arrival of my second grandchild after the convention in Washington, D. C.

Currently chairperson of the AVSA Ways and Means Committee, I'm known at AVSA conventions and shows as the "shirt-lady" for selling denim shirts and tee shirts with the Ways and Means Committee.

I enjoy the friends I have made over the years and look forward to meeting new friends during the future AVSA Conventions and Shows.



**Kathy Lahti**

For Director

Kathy Lahti of Annandale, MN, has been a member of AVSA for over twenty-five years. She has been a member of the AVS of Minnesota during those years, holding the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Director, and Historian. She has been Show Chairman several times, and is also an active member of the Lake Area Violet Growers and the AVSA Judges' Council of Minnesota.

Kathy has attended ten AVSA national conventions and is an Advanced AVSA Judge.

Kathy enjoys growing and showing African violets, as well as vegetable, annual, and perennial flower gardening. Other hobbies include canning and freezing vegetables and fruit, crocheting, knitting, deer hunting, and antique shopping.

Married to husband, Marv, Kathy has three grown sons, three grown stepchildren, and five grandchildren.



**Harry Weber**

For Director

As a young boy growing up in Wyoming, my first memories of African violets were of my mother propagating leaves in Mason jars of water. I would be sent to the garden to collect soil, heavily fertilized with cow manure, for the babies. I joined AVSA four and a half years ago, and have learned that these old methods may have been the reason so many of our plants did not make it. In this short period of time, with the education and assistance of the AVSA members, I have gone from a grower of a couple of violets to taking sixty plants to the local show last year and coming home with the Sweepstakes Award.

In the few years that I have been a member of AVSA, I have served on the executive board for the Rocky Mountain African Violet Council as the Nominating Chairman, First Vice-President, and President now for the second year. In this time, I served as Show-Chairman for one of our shows, which received a Blue ribbon on the SSA. Currently, I am a member of the AVSA Membership and Promotion Committee. At the affiliate level, I am the President of the Loveland Sweetheart Violettes Society, after serving as Secretary for two years. My wife, who is also an avid grower, and I have now attended four conventions, become student judges (advanced in the spring) and helped judge the last three local shows. I was also able to Clerk at the Convention in Chicago. My wife and I also grow Gesneriads, belong to AGGS, and I am a Student Judge in AGGS, where I have had the opportunity to help judge and clerk for their conventions.

I graduated from the University of Wyoming in 1971 with a Degree in Business, worked for Eastman Kodak for twenty-eight years as a Financial Planner, Production Scheduler, and Software Designer, Tester and Trainer. I am currently involved in several organizations, (Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, building homes for Habitat for Humanity and drive a DAV Bus to Veterans Hospitals for needy Veterans). I also enjoy the outdoors, reading, working in the garden, as well as doing the "honey doo's" and "daddy doo's" lists.

My wife and I are "semi" retired and enjoy growing African violets and Gesneriads. We enjoy traveling to see our children and the sights of our beautiful country when our schedule allows.

## It's Our 5th Annual Luncheon Auction

Edna Rourke

99 Old Stratford Road Shelton, CT 06484-6129

Email Apapillon@aol.com

**A special request to our members - hybridizers and affiliates**

The Fifth Annual AVSA Luncheon Auction will take place on Saturday, May 25, 2002. It's because of the generous donations of our members that past luncheon auctions have been so much fun in addition to being a huge success.

Our affiliates have a great deal of talented craftsmen among their members. Won't you consider donating a violet-related item or craft to this coming auction either as an individual member or as a club? Hybridizers, your donations of supplies or newly introduced plant material would be most appreciated. Donations of anything violet - related of a rare, unique, or unusual nature would also be gratefully accepted. A listing of all donations and contributors will be listed in a special notice and will also be acknowledged in the AVM.

If you plan to make a donation or want to help in some way, please let me know as soon as possible. I'll look forward to hearing from you. Many thanks for your help and continued support.



# AVSA Affiliates

Bev Promersberger - *Affiliate Committee*

7992 Otis Way

Pensacola, FL 32506

Promers22@hotmail.com

## Whose Club Is It?

**The majority rules and even the minority has the right to be heard!**

A local club does not belong to an individual, to the organizer, to the president, and not even to a strong or influential member or group of members. The club belongs to you, all the members.

As listed in "Basic principles of Parliamentary Procedure", distributed at the Affiliate Meeting in Chicago by guest speaker, Mary Boland, members have rights. They are entitled:

- To attend all meetings.
- To make motions relating to the object of the society.
- To debate all debatable questions that come before the assembly.
- To vote on all questions that come before the assembly.
- To make nominations.
- To hold office.
- To the respect and courtesy of all members.

Though listed last, the respect and courtesy of all members is most important. The right to the respect and courtesy of all members is so essential that without them, a club can easily become so fragmented that unity and focus disappear. The club may even split. The bylaws should be written to protect the rights of all the members and the Chairman is responsible for seeing that the rights are protected.

The Chairman is usually the President of your club. He/she is responsible for seeing that the meeting opens on time and that a quorum is present. If a quorum is not present, no business can be transacted. No decisions can be made. The President is responsible for seeing that everyone has a chance to express their views. The President, however, should not express his/her views or even enter into debate, but should remain impartial and protect the rights of all members. If, at any time, the President feels strongly about participating in discussion or debate, he/she should step down and allow the vice-President to chair the meeting. Before any debate can take place, a motion and a second must be made. A person can second the motion, even if he/she is against it, just to bring it to the floor for debate. Every member has the right to speak once, and only once, on any given motion until each member who wishes to speak has done so. If time remains, after each member has had the opportunity to speak, members may speak a second time. In short, the President is

responsible for keeping the meeting moving in every way that he/she can, as long as the rights of the members are protected.

So often, the members expect the President or the officers to run the club. They have their responsibilities, but, you, the members, run the club.

In addition to your rights, you have responsibilities:

- To obey the rules of the club.
- To carry out the objectives.
- To uphold the policies.
- To attend meetings regularly.
- To respect the officers in their official capacity.
- To abstain from acts or remarks outside of the meeting that interfere with the work being done by officers or committees.
- To pay attention to business and speakers.
- To attend to all assigned duties.
- To maintain decorum in debate.

It is important to mention that the objectives of any AVSA affiliate should coincide with the purposes of AVSA as listed in The African Violet Society of America Handbook For Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges.

Some clubs even list these or some of these objectives in their bylaws. By keeping your focus on the objectives, it is easier to maintain unity among your members.

I believe that even though you have the right to vote on all motions, you also have a responsibility to vote your conscience. You should not be swayed by other members. Vote what is best for the club and all the members, not how someone else wants you to vote, not how your friend votes, not how some influential member votes. Do not be afraid to be in the minority and object. For that reason, it is important that you be informed. The best way to do that is to be active and attend the meetings regularly.

Most of the material for this column came from the Affiliate Meeting in Chicago and from the material handed out at the meeting by the guest speaker, Mary Boland. If you wish a copy of the handouts, please send to me, at the new address above, a SASE (9 1/2 x 4 1/2) envelope with postage in the amount of \$1.03) for the 18 pages.



# What's Blooming?

by Sue Hodges

Although winter is the time when many plants take a rest, there is still color in my collection. The plants indoors are expected to bloom year-round but even some of the outdoor gesneriads are flowering.

*Gloxinia* sylvatica and *Gloxinia* 'Chic' are always cheerful in winter. For me, they bloom mid-winter when almost all of the other gesneriads that produce rhizomes are dormant. *Gloxinia* purpurascens is also flowering with its lovely red, hairy flowers that are rimmed with purple. The flowers almost glow under lights, and the purple hairs on the foliage make it a very attractive plant. Most of the other true gloxinias are going dormant, although the odd flower remains on some plants.

The *Achimenes* plants look dead and shrivelled, but one, *Achimenes* admirabilis, is blooming now. It has long ago escaped from its pot and it grows in the gravel on the floor of the greenhouse, as well as in the garden. It is only a small growing plant, but it always looks cheery with its orange-red flowers. Some people look on it as somewhat of a weed, but mine lead a fairly tough life and have never been a problem.

Some of the columneas have started to bloom, too. They seem to prefer to bloom when the heat of summer is over. *Columnea* 'Aladdin's Lamp' has been in bloom for probably eight weeks now. It hangs on a plant stand in front of a north facing window and trails right to the floor. The stems are more than one and a half meters long, and they will have to be trimmed when they finish flowering. In spring, I will restart the plant by putting a number of cuttings in to strike, and then I will discard the old plant.

*Columnea* 'Rudolph Valentino' has beautiful orange flowers with yellow netting on them. *Columnea* arguta, which I think is my favorite, has large orange flowers, which have four distinct yellow lines. I love the foliage of *C. arguta*, too, as it hangs down in ropes when it is getting lots of light.

I have repotted a lot of my violets recently so I don't have too much bloom on them at the moment. 'Smokey Echoes', a two-tone purple and white, is interesting as it is beginning to show more white in the blooms. During the hot weather, it was more and more purple until some blooms were almost a solid purple color with very little white. This seems to happen with

a lot of the two-toned violets - the weather has quite an effect on flower color.

'Helen Margaret' is a variegated violet, which is one I have had for many years. I find it very reliable and the variegation is more stable than other varieties in my collection. It has lovely soft pink flowers and grows into a nice plant with very little bother. 'The Alps' is a chimera with a white flower with a light blue stripe on each petal. I find it grows easily and it carries a good head of bloom. Another chimera is 'Victorian Flirt', which has a semi-double pink flower with blue fantasy and a white swipe. It will probably never make a good show plant, but the flowers are very pretty.

'Hot Flame' is another violet that I have had for many years, and I would not like to lose it. It is an unusual shade of wine-red and is very easy to grow. 'Hot Flame' can sometimes worry its owners when the center growth shows signs of yellowing slightly during the cool weather, and they think it has some dreadful disease! I don't know its parentage, but I think it must have crown variegation somewhere in its genes. Crown variegation is always more marked in winter and 'Hot Flame' often has this slight color change as well which is not a problem.

'East Wind' is, to me, a fairly new plant. It is just a plain light blue star but the petals are slightly ruffled which makes a very pretty flower. Unfortunately it seems to be prone to mildew in my conditions.

I am waiting rather impatiently for some *Streptocarpus* plants to flower. These are smaller growing plants, hybrids of several small species. I find that one of the problems of growing streps is the amount of room they take up. These little plants look promising in that they are much smaller. Some that have bloomed are interesting, although I would like them to have more flowers on each stem.

Although winter is a time when we don't seem to expect very much to bloom, I find that there is always something to bring a splash of color. Spring will soon be here anyhow; probably before I am ready for it!

From the AV News

## Saturday Luncheon Auction

The fifth annual luncheon auction will take place on May 25, 2002. We need the help of our members, affiliates, hybridizers, and commercials to make this auction successful. As you know, all monies raised benefit AVSA.

If you haven't done so already, won't you consider donating a violet-related item or craft to this coming auction? Hybridizers - donations of supplies or newly introduced plants or cuttings would be very much appreciated.

Your help will insure the success of this auction. Anyone

making a donation will receive special notice, and all donations and contributors will be acknowledged in the AVM. Remember, you must attend the luncheon in order to attend the auction. Won't you join us?

Please let me know if you will be donating any items. A description of the item should be included with your notice.

Edna Rourke, 99 Old Stratford Road, Shelton, CT 06484-6129, (203) 926-9716, email Apapillon@aol.com.

# Adventures in Hybridizing

by Margaret Taylor

Hybridizing African violets can be an in-depth exercise in genetics, a game of chance, or a combination of both. The late Bill Johnson (U.S.A.) who gave us many lovely hybrids said, "Logic can often lead you astray in genetics". So, if intuition is your driving force, hybridizing can still be absorbing, challenging, and a rich source of learning.

For me, the most suitable time to cross-pollinate is autumn. This allows the seed pods to develop over winter, in time to sow the seed in spring when temperatures reach around seventy five degrees F. It seems that attempting cross-pollination in very hot conditions is largely unsuccessful. Seed pods which do develop in summer invariably wither before the necessary time of four months or more has elapsed. Then they will almost never produce viable seed.

## Harvesting

After harvesting, when the stem supporting the pod starts to shrivel, I place it in an envelope containing a small packet of silica gel for about two weeks to dry out. Then the seed is ready to be used or stored. Many seed-pods contain hundreds of seeds, some a few, and occasionally some are found to be non-viable.

I have learned to sow only a small number of seeds at a time. The advantages are that the tiny seedlings are less crowded and easier to prick out and, should one bed not germinate for any reason, subsequent sowings may be more successful. Seed may be stored for long periods of time in a small, folded piece of paper contained in a screw-top jar or vial in the refrigerator - appropriately labeled of course.

## Planting

When sowing seed I use a 2,1,1 mix with a little fine-grade charcoal and dolomite, reduced to a fine tilth in the food processor. It is essential to pasteurize or even sterilize the seed raising mix. This is easily done by having it quite damp and popping it in the microwave oven for a minute, then cooling to room temperature before using. One winter, I lost a number of germinating seeds because of a layer of white fungus which overtook the surface of the seed-bed. This has not re-occurred since I followed the microwaving practice.

## Transplanting

With tiny seedlings, I now start very early and transplant only a few at a time, thereby staggering the numbers so that there are not too many of one cross growing at the same time. To save space, community trays are used initially and these are placed on capillary matting which is kept moderately damp. They receive foliar feeding once a week, and are potted on after two months.

## Flowering

The real fun begins when flowering commences. It is a time of suspense and anticipation. The first eagerly awaited flowers can be maddeningly slow to bloom. Disappointment occurs when a new single flowered seedling seems to offer everything, sits there for weeks looking pretty, and then drops its flowers. No mercy is shown here. It has to go. True singles, the most likely to drop, have only one pair of anthers to each flower. If there are several pairs, there is a strong chance that the blooms will be stick-tight and develop into semi-doubles or doubles.

## Evaluation

Appraisal of seedlings is a process which allows little room for sympathy or bias. What yardstick is used? "Nice" is inadequate. "Superb" is acceptable. At first it is hard to toss out the "also rans". Sometimes, more than one flowering is needed to ascertain the potential flower count and foliar development. Different seasons produce varying results in many African violets, so sometimes it is wise to give some seedlings a longer trial than others. Variegated foliage in young seedlings may be absent or sparse in hot spells, then, on maturity and a consistent drop in temperature, variegation may appear and develop quite noticeably.

Good foliage traits are flat symmetrical leaf patterns and no visible space between leaves or rows. Wavy foliage may be quite attractive but is harder to grow and generally less popular. Good bloom traits are high bloom count - more than five per stem, eager flowering, long-lasting blooms, strong upright stems, and if at all possible, distinctiveness of blooms.

Long term stability cannot be ascertained in the first generation; therefore, it is necessary to propagate two further generations from leaf cuttings. This is a must if registration is being considered.

## Some examples

I have many seedlings in the pipe line of probably too many different crosses, but I can share observations of two earlier crosses that have grown out.

These are 'Optimara Smoky Mountain' x 'Tomahawk' and 'Picasso' x 'Anastasia'. With the first, the objective was to improve the somewhat wayward foliage of 'Optimara Smoky Mountain' but maintain the high flower count and "lastability" of blooms. Many interesting colors eventuated with much improved foliage (giant in some cases). I feel this was a good cross, but as yet, I cannot claim a real winner. With the second cross, there were hundreds of seeds, most of which were grown out (before I learned better ways). The objective here was to maintain the lovely variegation of 'Picasso' while hoping to obtain a larger, longer lasting flower on taller stems.

Seedling after seedling had to top up the already well-stocked compost heap. They produced very nice foliage in the main, but offered pathetic nondescript flowers which were all blue. I considered discarding all the remaining seedlings and accepting defeat. Then a late arrival changed all that, and I have one plant with super qualities, not in a five inch pot. Maybe it should be named Late Edition, but for now, it manages with the nickname 'Bluey'. All this bears out the hard fact that success is elusive and tenacity of purpose essential.

Hybridizing is, as with anything worthwhile, a pastime of highs and lows. For me it is an adventure I wouldn't miss for anything. As an extra bonus, my compost heaps must be the most nourished in my locality! So the garden gets its share of the spoils and shows its appreciation too.

Happy hybridizing!

From *The African Violet*, publication of the  
AV Association of Australia, Inc.

## The \$100 African Violet

by Pat Vinciguerra, President  
Pomona Valley African Violet Society  
California

In March of 2001, I gave my friend, Pat Matthis, a huge African violet for her birthday. It was a beautiful cultivar of 'Something Special', in full bloom, with a twenty-eight inch leaf span. Pat was so pleased to get this plant and she wanted to show it off, so she displayed it in the window of the shop she owns in our small town of Upland, CA.

Needless to say, it was an immediate eye-catcher! Everyone who saw it just "oohed" and "ahed". Not many of them had seen an African violet that large. They would say, "I have to bring my Mother, sister, etc. to see this gorgeous violet!" This brought more customers into Pat's shop. People who came in couldn't believe it was real. They thought it was an artificial plant.

One night, during the "Street Fair" that Upland holds on Thursday night of each week in the summer months, a young couple spotted the violet in the window. The wife commented on how big and beautiful it was.

Her husband said, "It can't be real".

"Well", the wife said, "It is real."

A bet ensued. The husband bet her \$100.00 that it was fake!

They went inside the store and asked Pat if the husband could climb into the window and touch the plant to see if it was real. When he came out of the window he told his wife "Well Honey, I guess I owe you hundred dollars, it is real!"

The plant generated so much interest that Pat started a mailing list for our next African violet show in 2002. The names and addresses came pouring in, so I invited Pat to the next meeting of our local club, Pomona Valley AVS, and the members voted to make Pat an honorary life member.

Now when someone asks about the huge African violet, she gives them information about our club and one of the culture folders that I gave her, as well as my phone number. As president of PVAVS, when someone calls, I invite them to join our club and AVSA. What a great way to share our beloved African violets!

All thanks to one 'Something Special' violet!

## ATTENTION: AFFILIATES

If you have not signed up for the  
low-cost affiliate insurance, please do so NOW.

DO NOT DELAY

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# MYSTERY SOLVED - Welcome Resolution of a Baffling Problem

by Pat Lewis



I've been growing African violets for over fifty years, ever since a friend's mother died and left her small collection to our inexperienced care. Surprisingly, they thrived. In those days, blooms were just blue or purple or white, and they were all single and soon dropped off. Even though today those early varieties might not be thought very interesting, we quickly came to love them for their cheery, constant bloom. Ever since then, I've always had at least a few African violet plants.

I suppose anyone who has grown violets for many years has seen just about everything in the way of diseases and pests. I have learned to cope with mealy bugs (both kinds), mites, aphids, thrips, invading caterpillars, and root knot nematodes. I've dealt with powdery mildew, root rot, and an assortment of soil-dwelling creatures. With most of these conditions, I have found ways to rescue the plants and re-store them to health. My plants have given me much pleasure through the years.

About five years ago, a mysterious ailment began to appear in my collection, which comprised some 90 varieties. It was not easy to describe; they just didn't grow right. Individual varieties had their particular ways of showing the effect, but most frequently, there would be a change in the growing center. The new young leaves would stay too small - a "loose center" - or their petioles would fail to lengthen, so they would be all crowded together - a "tight center." With other varieties, the growing center would look normal, but the mature leaves would become "spooned" or the reverse, rounded up in the middle. Many of these plants kept blooming, but in some, the flowers were distorted, not opening fully. In the midst of all this, a few varieties seemed to be unaffected, growing and blooming normally and getting blue ribbons at our shows.

As time went by, I noticed an annual cycle. Each summer, in late August or September, the damage seemed to get worse. In winter and spring, the plants would recover to some degree so I would have plants to bring to our April show. I would be hopeful, but after warm weather, the trouble would show up again.

Nothing in my experience told me what was doing this. I ruled out mites because when I had a session with cyclamen mites a few years ago, all my plants were affected and their centers were seriously damaged. These didn't look that bad; their centers were never gray or hairy. I couldn't find any other pests. So I tried changing environmental factors. I changed fertilizers. I bought expensive special fluorescent tubes. I put a few plants on my only suitable small window sill. I tested pH and found it rather acid, so added more dolomite lime to my

soil mix. Nothing seemed to make much difference.

Often, a mature plant would just stop growing, with a distorted center. They would just stay the same way for months with no growth and no flowers - but they wouldn't die, either. I tried taking one or two of the best leaves to start new plants. They rooted and made new plantlets all right, but about the time the third and fourth leaves started to grow, I could see that they were abnormal.

I wrote to the Questions column in the African Violet Magazine, trying to describe my problem. After some months, they wrote back with a guess that it was caused by something the city authorities were putting in the water. I was skeptical of that because other club members were using city water and not reporting trouble.

I read in the AVM about a grower's experience that seemed similar. She said her plants did better when she switched to a certain potting mix. So I sent for some of that and some from another distant source, and tried several mixes from local stores. Soon I was working with seven different growing mixes, keeping notebook records on the results. For a while I thought I was on the track of something. Eventually, plants failed in each mix. A few did well in one or another, but results were inconclusive.

After five years, a breakthrough finally came in this discouraging story. And looking back, I wonder how I could have failed to catch on for so long. In July 2000, one of my best plants, a beautiful blooming Rob's Cloud Nine, suddenly went bad with a sick center. This time, while I disgustedly looked at the ruined plant, it occurred to me that this did look like mite damage. Why not try a miticide? So I got out my old bottles and gave my collection a treatment.

Wonder of wonders! There were results apparent in just a few days! Plants with tight centers started growing longer petioles. Some with distorted blossoms began producing nice ones. Little by little, improvement came until all but the sickest plants recovered. Damaged leaves remained abnormal, but as a plant continued to grow, they were pruned out, with good results. The frustrating, hard times are past.

When I had my bout with cyclamen mites some years ago, I was employed in a laboratory equipped with several low-power binocular microscopes. Mites are very tiny, so use of such optical aid is about the only way one can actually visualize them. I would take a plant to the lab and set it in place under the scope, keeping the light off. I would focus as well as possible, get set looking into the eyepieces, and then switch on the light. Mites hate light, so instantly they would run down

lower into the plant, out of sight, but I would have two or three seconds to view the "north end of a mite going south" or vice versa! So at that time I didn't have to guess; the diagnosis was positive.

I no longer have access to such a microscope, but I believe my recent problem was some kind of mite. Not cyclamen mite, since the damage was so comparatively mild, but another of the many species of these minute pests. Since a miticide cured the problem, I believe that's what it was. Individual varieties of violets must have varying ability to resist injury from these less-harmful varmints. And the mites must be more active at warmer temperatures. This too contributed to difficulty of the detective work, especially when some of my plants looked all right. I just couldn't think that there might be a pest.

This brings me to a warning for other violet growers. At

our shows during the last few years, I have allowed many plants to be sold, both to other club members and to the public. Although these plants looked all right at the time, many of them must have carried the pest. And they came to me from somewhere! These critters must be all over! We must all learn to be suspicious whenever violets show loose or tight centers or just don't thrive for no obvious reason. There are many effective miticides available. It might be a good idea to give an occasional, preventive treatment with a non-toxic type such as pyrethrin, which is easy to apply, and harmless to humans and pets other than fish. Be smart and keep your violets healthy; don't waste years, as I did!

*From "Blossoms", publication of the Seattle AVS*

## FOLIAR FEEDING

by Sue Gardner

Foliar feeding is the term used to describe spraying an entire plant with a solution of fertilizer. It was discovered in the 19th century (in 1844) that foliar feeding could be used as a means of supplying plant nutrients via the leaves. It was thought that this method would replace others in fertilizing plants. Victorian Department of Agriculture research has shown that total requirements of Nitrogen and potassium are too great to be applied by foliar feeding. However, in recent times, foliar feeding has been established as an effective complement to other forms of fertilizing.

Fluorescent materials and radio-active tracers were used to establish that plants could absorb nutrients through their leaves and into the plant system. The fertilizer elements enter the plant through the cuticle of the plant and also through the stomata (small openings in leaves which allow gases and vapor to move in and out). The sprayed droplets should be very small to allow maximum absorption through the tiny stomata.

As there are more stomata on the underside of leaves, absorption is greater there. Younger leaves seem to absorb at a greater rate. Research has shown that young leaves absorb over half applied nutrients in less than twenty-four hours. High humidity aids uptake.

Research shows that foliar feeding increases the rate of absorption through the roots of the main elements -nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. It also increases the efficiency with which the plant utilizes these fertilizers.

### Practical Hints

1. Only try a new method such as foliar feeding on a few plants until you are satisfied with it.
2. Use only hot water. You can heat it for two to three minutes in the microwave. Test the water by spraying on your wrist to make sure it is warm when sprayed at a distance of about eight to twelve inches.
3. Spray the underside first then mist the top. Use a spray

bottle which produces a fine mist and stop before droplets form.

4. Use a suitable fertilizer for your purpose - a high nitrogen one for lush growth and to help small plantlets with a small root system to develop quickly.
5. Beware of powdery mildew in cold weather.
6. Use a drop of liquid dish soap in your spray bottle as a spreader.
7. Foliar feed only when plants are warm, turgid (firm not limp) and in light. This is because the stomata are open in these conditions.

### Fertilizers You Could Use

Use a seaweed based fertilizer to develop resistance to pests and disease. For healthy foliage use Aquasol, or Gro-Max. To green leaves use Epsom Salts. To promote bloom, use a bloom booster.

### Only use a low nitrogen fertilizer on variegated plants.

Epsom Salts - 1 pinch per quart	Maxi crop - 4 drops per quart
Gro-Max - 1 pinch per quart	Vital - 1/4 tsp. per quart

### How I use foliar feeding.

I use foliar feeding for specific purposes. If my plant seems to be developing slightly yellowish outer leaves, I use epsom salts or a high nitrogen fertilizer to correct the problem.

If I want to promote faster growth, particularly in baby plants with small root systems, I use foliar feeding - again a high nitrogen fertilizer.

When I want to produce flowers for a display, I use a bloom booster in the 10th, 9th, and 8th weeks before.

I have read that some growers use fertilizer in foliar feeding at a higher strength than listed above. I am trying out 1/8 teaspoon per liter and will write about the results later.

From the Newsletter of the Early Morn AV Group

# AV Vendors 101: Getting the Plants you WANT

Richard Follett

The scenario is a familiar one: you have pored over AV catalogues from highly-recommended vendors, rhapsodized and agonized to match the size of your budget and your available shelf space to your passion for new varieties, painstakingly filled out your order form, and waited with unprecedented patience for the treasured box to arrive. At long last, the precious parcel is delivered and you tear into it like a kid on Christmas morning. The only UNfamiliar part of this heartwarming scene is the surprise ending: instead of the carefully selected varieties you have been expecting, you find substitutions – AV varieties not of your own choosing which have been included by the vendor to replace stock varieties not on hand. For the adventurous, substitutions can be a delightful surprise; for those with more specific desires, the reality can be heartbreaking.

I am one of the latter type – I get EXTREMELY attached to my choices! As a first-time customer of one particular vendor, I received an order where a full ONE THIRD of the requested varieties were replaced by substitutions. I began to ask around among my AV acquaintances in person and on-line to see if my experience was unique and learned a great deal about the nature of the problem and strategies to prevent disappointment. Following is a brief list of pertinent facts and possible solutions.

## THE FACTS:

1. The number and size of commercial AV vendors decreases each year as operating costs and the number of registered varieties increase while the number of prospective buyers declines.
2. AVs take months to propagate; therefore, changing tastes among AV enthusiasts are difficult to anticipate and/or accommodate.
3. Substitution has long been an accepted practice, and not all AV purchasers object.

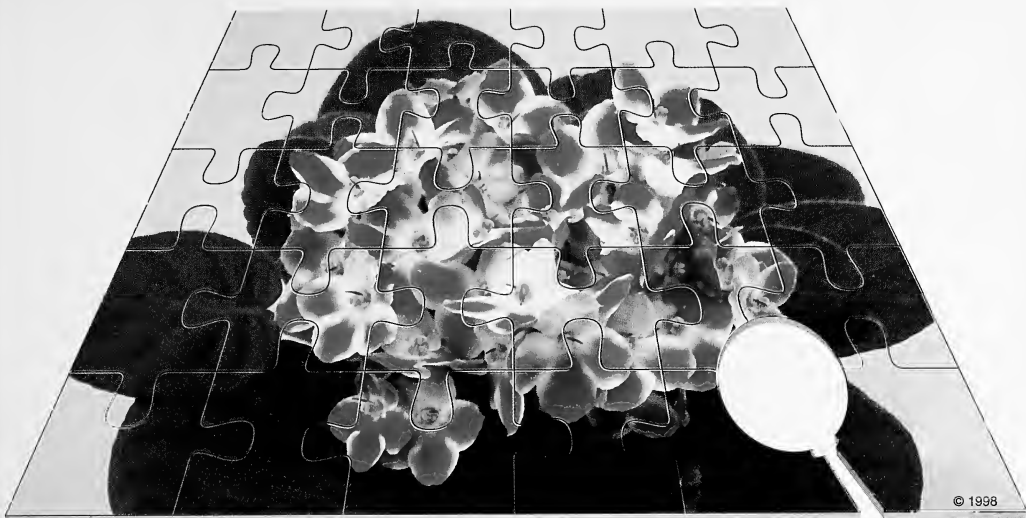
## TOP TEN STRATEGIES FOR AVOIDING DISAPPOINTMENT:

1. Whenever possible, order specific varieties at the end of one growing Season (November, in most cases) for delivery the following Spring.
2. If the above is not possible, order EARLY in the season.
3. CALL or E-MAIL the vendor in advance of your order to see if the varieties you desire are in stock

4. Whether ordering leaves OR plants, list potential substitutes as part of your order to help the vendor make choices you'll be happy with. If substitutions are NOT acceptable to you, SAY SO clearly on the order form (use a highlighter to draw attention to this) and ask for a partial refund for unavailable requested varieties.
5. Whenever possible, give the AVSA registration numbers (available from First Class, AVSA Master list, or fellow enthusiasts) for varieties you have requested – names and descriptions are not always enough! Joining a club or an on-line discussion group will also give you access to these numbers and wealth of valuable insights.
6. Save a copy of your order so you can compare it to the AVs you receive.
7. Be flexible whenever possible and respect the vendor's expertise – sometimes the weather just won't cooperate, and the variety the vendor wants to substitute may be FAR SUPERIOR in growth habit and/or bloom quality to the violet you think you wanted!
8. Cultivate a personal relationship with your favorite vendors: let vendors know when you are particularly pleased, as well as when you are displeased – good relationships never hurt when trying to resolve a problem, and vendors can't fix problems they don't know about!
9. When you must criticize, do so constructively – vendors face challenges every day which we enthusiasts cannot even imagine.
10. Include COMPLETE, ACCURATE, and LEGIBLE delivery information (name, address, phone, e-mail) with EACH order, even if you are a repeat customer.

I am sure there are many other techniques to ensure success – the ones above are representative of the many practical suggestions I have received. Although the joy of violeteering will no doubt outweigh most disappointments, good communication can only help to ensure maximum enjoyment for vendors and growers alike. One final note: heirloom violets are disappearing every day – please consider adding one or more heirloom violets to each order you place – if we don't order 'em, the vendors won't grow 'em!

*May all your AV dreams come true –*



© 1998

# What's Missing From This Picture?

Chances are, few of today's garden centers know as much about growing African Violets as you do. No doubt, this explains why so many knowledgeable Violet growers have a hard time finding the products they need. For anyone who knows what it takes to grow beautiful, full-blooming African Violets, it can be like putting together a puzzle, only to find there's a piece missing. We know the feeling. That's why we started the Selective Gardener, a plant care supplier that specializes in products for African Violets.

## Everything You Need to Grow Beautiful, Full-Blooming African Violets

The Selective Gardener makes it easy to get the products you need. As a plant care supplier that specializes in African Violets, the Selective Gardener carries a full line of plant care products with brand names like Optimara.

- Fully-dissolving, urea-free fertilizers
- Self-watering devices such as the Watermaid and the new, spill-proof Optimara WaterShip
- Ultralight, pH-balanced potting media
- Pots, trays and plant covers
- Show accessories and more

## From Leaf Cuttings to Finished Violets

In addition to plant care products, the Selective Gardener offers African Violets in several pot sizes, including genuine Miniatures. You can also order leaf cuttings from all of the available Optimara and Rhapsodie varieties.

## A Complete African Violet Resource

The Selective Gardener is a complete African Violet resource. Send for the Selective Gardener catalog, and you will find offers for plant care products, Violets and leaf cuttings, even books and posters. Or go online, and you will find even more. At the Selective Gardener's internet site (<http://www.selectivegardener.com>), you will have access to a number of resources not available anywhere else.

- Growing tips from the world famous Holtkamp Greenhouses
- Complete interactive Violet identification guide
- Links to other useful sites such as Doctor Optimara, a symptom-based, interactive guide for diagnosing pests and pathogens
- Reviews of African Violet products

**(Tip:** If you do not have access to the internet, try your public library. Many libraries, now, provide computers for public use, as well as helpful assistance for anyone wanting to go online.)

## The Selective Gardener Catalog

To receive the Selective Gardener catalog, send \$1 (which will be credited to your first order) with your name and address to:

The Selective Gardener  
6011 Martingale Lane  
Brentwood, TN 37027

Or visit us online at  
<http://www.selectivegardener.com>.

**Selective  
Gardener**

# Question Box



**Ralph Robinson**  
P.O. Box 9  
Naples, NY 14512  
email: [robsviolet@aol.com](mailto:robsviolet@aol.com)



**Dorothy Kosowsky**  
712 Cunningham Dr.  
Whittier, CA 90601  
email: [dot3joe@earthlink.net](mailto:dot3joe@earthlink.net)

Once again, our very patient editor has quietly waited for this column to arrive on her desk. We just never seem to have enough time, and always have too much work. As soon as we seem to have "caught up", one of our employees decides to leave, there's another show to travel to, or there's more than the usual number of orders to process. This time, all of the above apply. Worse, we drove through snow on our way back from the Ohio State show the first week of October - good grief! It seems that winter is going to come early this year. We'll just lock ourselves inside with our plants, and hibernate until spring. Let's hope that we're proven wrong by the time this column finally appears in January.

As is always the case, we are far too busy to reply to mail (or e-mail), though we do read all of it. Should you want a personal reply, we are more than willing to answer phone calls made during our normal business hours (12-5 pm EST), since we can work and talk at the same time. For those with access to the internet, we can be reached at [robsviolet@aol.com](mailto:robsviolet@aol.com) or via our web-site at [www.robsviolet.com](http://www.robsviolet.com). The web-site also contains a wealth of cultural information.

**QUESTION:** What is a "sport"?

**ANSWER:** "Sport" is a term that hobbyists use to refer to a plant that differs significantly from its normal appearance or type. This is due to a genetic change in the plant, a mutation where the basic genetic relationships in the plant tissues are different than they had been. Though "sporting" is most often used to describe a change in blossom color or type, it can also refer to changes in the foliage, size, or growth habit of the plant.

Though a plant that has sported can be a disappointment, and would be penalized if exhibited in its usual class in a show, not all mutations are bad or unwanted. Instability can be good. Many of our most unusual, beautiful varieties are sports of more ordinary plants. Many, if not most, of our favorite pin-wheel and striped blooms are the result of sporting. Were it not for sports, we wouldn't have variegated foliage either. These all appeared first as mutations of less "interesting" plants.

**QUESTION:** I have a violet that has "sported". It had a pink flower with blue streaks, but now all of its blooms are solid blue. Is there any hope of it ever returning to its original colors?

**ANSWER:** Probably not. Once the genetic makeup of the plant has changed, it's not likely to change back. When a plant has mutated, it's changed at a very basic, fundamental level. It's no longer the same plant that it once was. This is particularly unlikely if the conditions that prompted the mutation in the first place haven't improved. These could be any kind of stress, such as excess heat, light, fertilizer or chemicals, to name a few. The harsher your growing environment, the more likely it will be that plants will sport. Some particularly unstable varieties can be nearly impossible to grow "true to description" through the warm summer months, for example.

**QUESTION:** I have a plant of 'Midnight Frolic', which should have wavy leaves. The leaves are still a little wavy, but the leaf edges are curved downwards and the leaves are unusually thick and brittle. This hasn't been a problem with my other violets. Am I doing anything wrong?

**ANSWER:** Not all violets are the same and, from our experience, this particular variety is a bit more sensitive than others. We want our violets to have thick, lush, foliage, but we don't want the foliage to be hard or brittle. As commercial growers who ship tens of thousands of plants through the mail, this is a concern to us. We want foliage to be lush and healthy, but to be supple enough to wrap and travel safely for long periods in a box. We've learned that foliage can become unusually brittle when conditions are especially bright, hot, and/or dry. Older plants, and those who have gone a long time without repotting into fresh soil are even more likely to have unusually brittle foliage.

For example, violets grown in our greenhouse have more supple foliage (and are easier to wrap) when the greenhouse is cooler and more humid, and is shaded enough so that the light is not too intense. We've found that plants grown underneath the benches, under florescent light, on capillary mats, have less brittle foliage than those on top of the benches. Our guess is



that this is because temperatures are lower, humidity is higher, and light is less intense beneath the benches. It's also important not to overuse fertilizers, and to repot plants regularly. Fertilizer salts tend to accumulate in the soil over time, and this can lead to foliage becoming especially hard and brittle. For this reason, regular repotting and refreshing of the soil is helpful.

**QUESTION:** *I've had a problem in growing large standard showplants. I'll get a very large plant, with beautiful foliage that is perfect in every way except for lots of tiny dots on the inner rows of leaves. Worse, these "freckles" always seem to appear when the plant really has begun to grow large and look good. By then, I've gotten my hopes up only to be disappointed. Any ideas?*

**ANSWER:** Our guess is that what you're seeing is the evidence of thrips. We've had this happen to otherwise spectacular showplants and can understand your frustration. Thrips generally are a problem because they damage the blossoms, not the foliage. Spilled pollen and streaked or deformed blossoms are the most common symptoms of a thrips infestation. When thrips are seen moving about, it's almost always on the surface of the blossoms. The blossoms are where thrips like to make their home.

Since the first step in attacking a thrips problem is to remove all of the flowers and buds from the plant, it is easy to be misled into thinking that a large showplant, that had been disbudded for months, would be an unlikely home for thrips. Even a plant without flowers, however, can harbor thrips. By removing the flowers and buds, you've only forced the few remaining thrips to relocate from one neighborhood to another. They can hide beneath the leaves or in the crown of the plant, in small numbers, all the while feeding on your violet. Of course, when the plant is still small and just disbudded, the numbers are small and the damage done is unnoticed. By the time the plant has grown large, the thrips population has also become large - large enough so that the damage done to the young, tender, leaves near the crown of the plant is noticeable. Those tiny dots are the evidence of their feeding on your violet. In extreme cases, leaf edges, particularly on those younger leaves, can become brown and curl downwards. The plant center can even become disfigured, much like what would appear in the early stages of a cyclamen mite infestation, when thrips damage is more severe.

**QUESTION:** *Many of the violets in my collection are beginning to have mottled leaves, tight centers, and a dull appearance. They just seem to sit there and not grow. I've shown these plants to some other growers and they suspect that they might have some kind of virus. Would you agree?*

**ANSWER:** Without personally seeing the plants, it would be difficult to say with certainty. Also, it's something that we've been very fortunate to not have to deal with. We're far

from being experts on plant viruses. It's also fortunate that this is a problem that is more rare than common. If you provide an environment that's good for growing healthy plants, but bad for growing disease, it's not likely that plant viruses will be able to take hold and spread in your collection. To repeat a saying, "prevention is the best cure."

Good culture, sanitation, and the isolation and discarding of unhealthy plants are the keys to keeping your collection of plants healthy and disease-free. Botrytis spores, for example, can remain viable for over a year, even on healthy plants - they are always there! Dead and decaying material, though, provides the most favorable environment for them. It's very important that this material is carefully removed and disposed of without spreading spores to the rest of your collection. It's also important to remove affected plant material at an early stage, before significant decay, before spores can be produced. What this means is removing old leaves and blooms that are beginning to fade, before they are actually mushy, brown, or decaying.

Isolation and discarding of unhealthy and sick plants is extremely important. We rarely have any problems that are evident on a large number of plants. This is because we immediately discard any "problem plants" that are showing signs of stress, disease, or simply don't "look happy". It seems ridiculously simple, but having healthy plants means growing only healthy plants. If it doesn't look good, we discard it. Removing problem plants improves the collection both by removing the plants as well as removing the agents of any possible disease. Never make the mistake of assuming the problem will just "go away", or can be kept there without risk to the remainder of your collection.

Prevention also means providing an environment that isn't favorable to the spread of disease. Avoid very damp, stagnant conditions, which are favorable environment for the absorption of spores into plant tissue. Growing many of our plants on capillary mats and having a greenhouse, it's hard for us to avoid these conditions entirely. We try to keep plants from being overcrowded, so that leaves of neighboring plants don't touch each other. This way spores can't easily move between plants by direct contact. We also provide as much air movement as possible, using fans, to keep air from becoming too stagnant and to equalize temperature throughout the room as much as possible. Finally, since the wet mats, themselves, could provide a means for spreading disease, we wash the mats every third or fourth week in detergent and bleach, and then use Phytan 20 (a greenhouse disinfectant and fungicide) at a dilution of 1 Tbl. Per 5 gallons of water the first watering after plants are placed back onto the washed blankets. We also never reuse soil, and any pot or plant tray that is reused is soaked in a bleach and water solution (1 part bleach to 10 parts water) and washed.

**Name of columnist replying is in bold print**



# Showcase

## *Buckeye Incognito*

*Best Seedling Ohio State Show*

*Hybridized by: Pat Hancock*

*Large*



*Photo Credit: Pat Hancock*

## *Fading Embers*

*2001 Release*

*Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses*

*Chimera*



*Photo Credit: Paul Sorano*



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

## ***Futuriste***

Exhibited by: **Denis Croteau**  
 2001 AVS of Canada National Show  
 Hybridized by: **Regan/Croteau**  
 Standard



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

## ***Ness' Mini Sofa***

From Best AVSA  
 Semi/Mini Collection  
 2001 AVSA National Show  
 Exhibited by: **Kathy Lahti**  
 Hybridized by: **D. Ness**  
 Semiminiature

# Shows and Judges



**Bill Foster**  
*Shows and Judges Committee*  
3610 Gray Drive  
Mesquite, TX 75150  
email:bpfoster@airmail.net

Happy New Year! I hope that all of you and your families have enjoyed a great holiday season and experienced a special closeness, because of or in spite of, the turmoil that was created by the September 11 disaster. Also, in spite of the disaster, I urge all of you, Americans and members from other countries, to join me and many other AVSA members in Washington, DC, to help make this convention a memorable event.

The convention information will appear in the March issue of the AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE this year. Due to this delay, you will need to be prompt in submitting your registration, requests to judge/clerk, etc. If you have been thinking about staying at home this year, please reconsider.

The following is a correction of a Handbook correction that was shown in the Editor's Notes in the November/December issue of the AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE. It is a correction of a statement in the September/October Shows & Judges Column. I want to repeat it for those of you who may have missed it. The September/October column stated; Page 78: Please change the first sentence on 4 to read: Uniformly covered tables shall be furnished. The exhibitor may provide their own covering, but selection is limited to solid colors. **The statement is correct but the page number should have been 77 and the item number should have been 5.**

Here are some questions that have been received recently.

*Q. How many AVSA collection classes are included in the schedule for an AVSA convention show?*

**A.** Four. There is a class for standard plants and miniature/semiminature plants in the amateur section. These same two classes are repeated in the commercial section

*Q. Occasionally it is difficult for clubs to find enough AVSA judges to judge their own show. Is it all right for AVSA judges to judge a show sponsored by their own club? If so, are there any restrictions? Should these judges serve on the panel evaluating for the Standard Show Award?*

**A.** Judges should judge in their own club's show only if it is ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY! They should not judge if they are serving as a chairman or committee member of classifica-

tion, entries, or the judges' committee. They should not judge AVSA collections if they have entries in those classes and they should not judge if they have a number of entries in the show. They should not serve on the panel to evaluate for the SSA. There should really be no reason for them to do so unless the show only has one panel of judges. In that case, they probably should be a silent member of the panel.

*Q. Is it permissible for a person to serve as a judge when they are show chairman for that show?*

**A.** Here again, they should serve only if ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY. The same would be true as stated above. Anytime a member has a lot of entries in a show, they should not judge.

*Q. Should an exhibitor who has entries in design be allowed to judge in design?*

**A.** Only if ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY! They should not judge classes in which they have entries and they should not serve on the panel selection of the top awards for design.

*Q. May two student judges be allowed to serve on the same panel.*

**A.** No! Our Handbook states that only one student judge may serve on a panel with two experienced judges. Student judges are not even allowed to judge in AVSA convention shows.

*Q. In a recent council show I had a number of entries in the miniature and semiminature classes. All of my entries were slip potted in slip pots no larger than 2 3/8 inches. I received judges comments on six of my entries that stated they were overpotted. Would you please comment on this?*

**A.** I am rather appalled! A note of this nature should NEVER be written on minis or semis in this size pot. Judges, if you recognize yourselves here, please read the section on **CONSIDERATIONS FOR JUDGING SINGLE-CROWN MINIATURES AND SEMIMIATURES** on page 54 of the HANDBOOK. Take special notice to the statement "the rule of thumb that the diameter of the pot should be approximately

one third diameter of the plant does not apply to miniatures and semiminiatures"

*Q. In a recent state show a standard plant that was not the highest scoring plant in an AVSA collection was selected as Best-in-Show. How do you feel about this? Should one panel re-judge another panels work?*

A. Again, I am appalled! **NO**, a panel should not re-judge another panel's work. Apparently, there are some judges who

feel that rules do not apply to them. I suggest that these judges consider how they would feel if another panel questioned their work. I also suggest that they read, in its entirety, page 90 of the HANDBOOK.

The fall shows have brought about some interesting questions on judging. As judges, perhaps we should just sit down every once in a while, and read the HANDBOOK!

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## Pot Size

by Cheryl Salatino

The general rule of thumb for standard plants is that the pot must be 1/3 the size of the plant. Since African violets have a shallow root system, use a plastic tub or pan-style pot. The reason why the 1/3 rule is followed is because an African violet's roots must be able to fill the pot. Too large a pot means that the extra soil will hold water that cannot be absorbed by the plant. Often, that means "wet feet" which can cause root rot. Therefore, the typical deep houseplant pots are not desired. If you must use them, place a deep layer of perlite in the bottom to reduce the amount of soil needed.

An African violet does not always require "potting up". Often during my repotting efforts, grooming requires that a row or two of leaves must be removed to encourage better symmetry. After those leaves come off, the plant is smaller and must be looked at carefully to determine the correct pot size. Sometimes the same sized pot is used. Other cases require that

a smaller size be chosen. When "potting down", make certain that you do not allow a neck to appear. Scrape down the neck and cut some of the root ball off (usually 1/3 will not harm the plant) to appropriately fit the plant into the pot.

When choosing a pot for a semiminature, the 1/3 rule does not apply. Most growers do not use pots greater than 2 1/2 inches in order to keep the plants compact. Because semis are often easier to grow for show, many people choose to follow the show guidelines for growing. The rules for exhibiting semi-mini African violets require the plant to be no more than eight inches or less in diameter. In order to keep a plant compact, a small pot is often chosen. It is common to see a six inch plant in a 2 1/2 inch pot. Experiment with the varieties that you choose.

*From Ye Bay Stater; publication of the Bay State AVS*

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## A New Additive For Your Soil

By Pat Hancock

This year at the AVSA national convention, Kent Stork told about a problem he had been having with the foliage on his plants. Apparently the lower leaves were yellowing with a strange 'haloing effect'. He sent samples to a laboratory, and they reported that his plants had a calcium deficiency. They recommended the addition of gypsum to his potting soil. He reported a definite improvement within a very few weeks. Some of the plants that he brought to the convention still showed some of the symptoms on the outer leaves. He gave me the crown of one of these plants. I brought it home and immediately planted it in my soil that now has the addition of "red lava rock".

For about six months, I have been adding the small red lava rock to my soil. I bagged the plant, as I do all new plants that come into my house, and did not look at it again until this week.

When I opened the bag I was amazed. The plant had grown until it filled the gallon bag and it now has a dark green,

very healthy look. It no longer had any hint of the haloing effect.

Since I have been using the lava rock, I have seen a definite improvement in the healthy color of the foliage on my plants. I do not know what is in the lava rock that the plants love, but I do know there is something.

I first read about the use of lava rock in an AVM article written by George Starr. I called him and talked to him about it, and then started using it. I use about one quart of lava rock to about five gallons of my soil.

If you are having a problem with yellowing of lower leaves, haloing, or just a dull unhealthy look, try using red lava rock.

George Starr's article, "Developing a Soil Recipe" appears in the Nov/Dec, 2000 African Violet Magazine.

*From The Violet Connection,  
publication of the Ohio State AVS*

# Showcase

## *Buckeye Electric Dream*

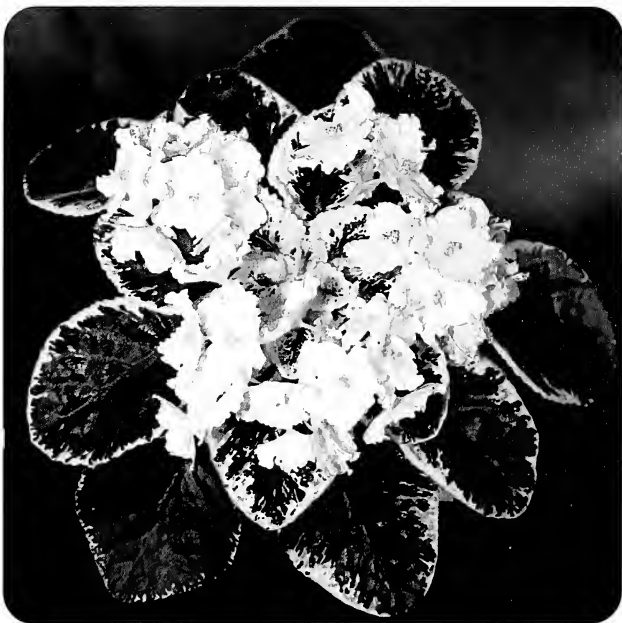
*New Introduction for 2002  
Hybridized by: Pat Hancock*



*Photo Credit: Pat Hancock*

## *Frosted Whisper*

*Exhibited by: Claire R. Gamache  
AVS of Canada 2001 National Show  
Hybridized by: R. Scott  
Large*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*

## *Mark*

*Exhibited by: Lorna Russell*

*2001 AVS of Canada National Show*

*Hybridized by: M. Maas*

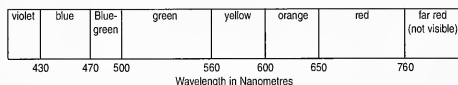
# Light and Plants

by Sue Gardner  
Australia

Light from the sun supplies energy for plants. It is very important for animals also, as they depend on plants for food.

## Spectrum of Light

Sunlight (or white light) is composed of light of various wavelengths. The visible spectrum runs from violet to red as show below:



We will refer to the various wavelengths by color.

Light controls the form and structure of plants and the germination of some seeds. How do plants detect light? By means of phytochrome. Phytochrome, a pigment found in plant cells, exists in two forms that are inter-converted by far red and red light energy. It causes seedlings, which have germinated in the dark and which are etiolated, to produce green leaves. Phytochrome also controls the onset of flowering and dormancy.

In seeds sown in the dark under soil, the coleoptile (a sheath protecting the primary shoot) elongates quickly and pushes upwards through the soil. When it reaches the light, phytochrome activated by far red light stimulates the opening of the leaves so that photosynthesis can occur and the seedling can survive. The activated phytochrome then influences hormones that cause inhibition of stem elongation so that the plant will grow more compactly and be stronger.

## Control of Flowering

The most dramatic role of phytochrome is in controlling flowering. Flowering depends on alternating periods of light and dark and the influence of phytochrome. The response of plants to the relative lengths of light and dark periods is called photoperiodism. Note that it is the length of the dark period which is the critical factor.

Plants are divided into three groups on the basis of their response to the photoperiod.

1. Short day (long night) plants flower when light period is shorter than dark period.
2. Long day (short night) plants flower when the light period is longer than the dark period. The light period is usually longer than sixteen hours.
3. Day neutral plants are not affected by the length of the light period (African violets fall into this category).

Phytochrome exists in two forms, one in greater concentration in sunlight and the other in the dark. Short and long day plants respond differently to these concentrations causing flowering under different photoperiods.

## How is Flowering Initiated?

After the photoperiod stimulus is detected in the leaves, phytochrome acts to produce a hormone "florigen" which travels through the plant to the buds, preventing them from developing into sideshoots. Instead, they develop into flower buds. Horticulturalists use lights to interrupt the night length or increase daylight hours to induce flowering in plants out of season.

## Light and Photosynthesis

Light is essential for the synthesis of chlorophyll, the substance which is necessary for photosynthesis. Exposure to red light results in rapid formation of chlorophyll. This means that after a seedling has used up food stored in the seed, light causes chlorophyll production, and the plant can then make its own food.

Light is also essential for proper formation of chloroplasts. The chloroplast is the part of the cell where chlorophyll exists and photosynthesis occurs. If chloroplasts do not receive appropriate illumination at an early stage of development they become abnormal and cannot operate.

For photosynthesis to occur, light energy is necessary. There are actually several light absorbing pigments - chlorophyll a, chlorophyll b, carotene, and xanthophyll. The amount of light energy absorbed by these pigments depends on the intensity of the light and the wavelength. The short wavelengths (e.g. blue) contain more energy than the longer wavelengths (e.g. red). Chlorophyll absorbs light energy mainly red and blue, while other pigments (e.g. carotenes) absorb some energy in yellow and



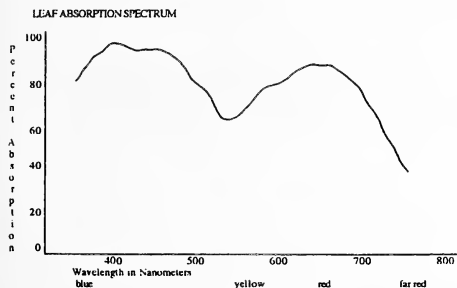
other areas then transfer that energy to the chlorophyll.

Photosynthesis occurs in several steps that we can group into two overall stages. In the first stage, chlorophyll traps light energy and stores it in a phosphate molecule. Oxygen is produced here. The second stage uses the energy from the phosphate with carbon dioxide to produce sugar. This sugar is used in various syntheses in the plant, and is stored or used for energy.

The cells that carry on photosynthesis are found mainly in the leaves. The leaf is very efficient for photosynthesis because of its structure. Every year, plants convert over 200 billion tons of carbon (from carbon dioxide) to sugar, about 100 times what man manufactures in that year. The total energy absorption by a typical leaf is shown in the diagram below.

Note that the leaf absorbs most light energy in the blue and red region. The red and far red are very important as a 30% increase in photosynthetic output occurs when both red and far red rays are present. This is because the chloroplasts need the far red rays to develop their proper state.

## LEAF ABSORPTION SPECTRUM



The amount of light absorbed by a leaf depends on its position. The uppermost leaves absorb about 90% of light falling on them. The next layer of leaves thus receive only 10% and so on.

The angle of the leaf also affects the amount of light received as can be seen from the diagram shown below.

The flatter the leaf grows, the more light rays it can collect. If, however, the petioles are all the same length,



only the top leaves receive light. African violets have an efficient leaf arrangement as their petioles on the upper leaves are short and this exposes the greatest leaf area to the light. If your plant has the leaves reaching upward, it is not growing as efficiently as it would if the leaves were flat.

## Phototropism

It is interesting to note that the part of the light spectrum that causes bending (phototropism) is the blue light (and some violet). Pigments such as flavoprotein absorb this light and stimulate hormonal effects causing curvature toward the light source. This should be taken into consideration if Gro-Lux standard tubes are used for growing plants. More bending will result from these tubes (compared to wide spectrum tubes) as the light they produce contains 27% blue rays. Wide spectrum tubes produce 14%.

Blue light also produces short internodes resulting in a more compact plant. However a healthier plant is produced with a more balanced light source containing some far red rays.

## Light and water loss

Absorption of light by green leaves results in a rise in the temperature within the leaves. This causes an increase in water vapor within the leaves and increased water loss.

Light also affects stomatal opening. At night the stomata are partially or wholly closed, and water loss is less than during the day when stomata are open. This happens in the following way. When light falls on leaves, photosynthesis takes place and the overall effect is that water moves into the guard cells causing the stomata to open. Also, it is thought that blue light seems to stimulate a flavoprotein (called riboflavin or Vitamin B) in the guard cell to promote water movement into the guard cells causing the stomata to open.

So, if you grow plants in strong light, remember they lose water more quickly than if grown in low light.

From the *Newsletter* of the Early Morn AV Group, Inc.



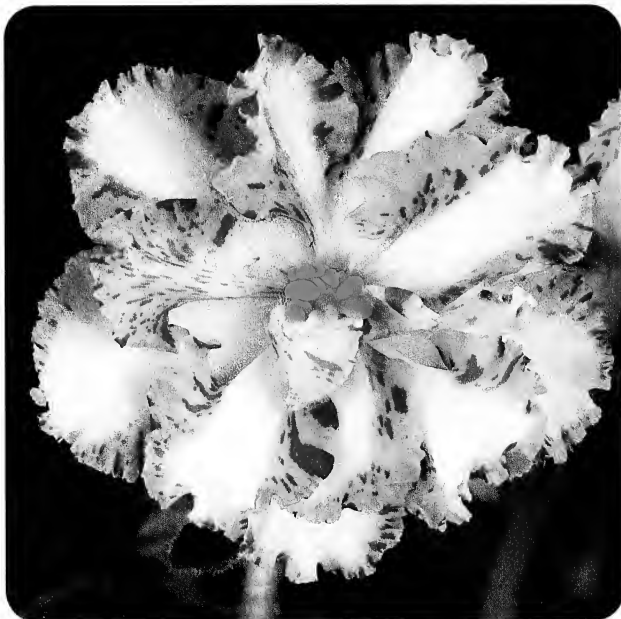
# Showcase

## *Carnation Sprinkles*

*2001 Release*

*Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses*

*Chimera*



*Photo Credit: Paul Sorano*

## *Episcia Temiscamingue*

*2001 AVS of Canada National Show*

*Exhibited by: Francine Pilon*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

## *Milky Way Trail*

*Exhibited by: John Carter*

*Hybridized by: J. Stahl*

*Semiminiature Trailer*



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

## *Saintpaulia pendula*

*Best Species*

*2001 AVSA National Show*

*Exhibited by: Barbara Pershing*

# MAT WATERING

by Laura Walker

Water and fertilizer are two of the "10 props" listed by AVSA in the Judges Handbook. Our plants want enough water and fertilizer to grow and bloom. They are not really that particular about how they get either, if both are in sufficient - but not in TOO great a quantity.

As most of you know, there are different methods of watering and many of us use either wick or mat watering. Some may individually water the plants they have, but this is not practical for large numbers of plants and/or if you must be away for a length of time.

Watering and soil mixture go together. A heavy mixture, meaning more peat, will hold more water and may hold it longer. I use different combinations of ProMix BX with perlite and vermiculite. There are 3/2/1 mixes and 1/1/1 mixes. You can tell by the texture how "heavy" or "light" they are. Peat, which holds water, is "heavy" while soils with additives such as perlite or even chicken grit are "light."

The conditions in your growing area, temperature, humidity and light, will partially determine the water requirements of your plants. The plant is the final part of this equation. Some gesneriads are tolerant of drier conditions, but some will die if they are allowed to dry out, especially if they repeatedly go dry. Others will go dormant if allowed to dry out.

Mat watering is a way to supply water, and possibly nutrients, in a steady manner. It will let you be away for short periods, depending on conditions in your growing area and the size of your reservoirs. If it is dry, either the heat is on, or you are air conditioning, and you have low humidity. The plants will use more water and the reservoirs will have to be refilled more frequently. You can put plain water in the reservoir or water with fertilizer, using the constant feed quantity suggested by the manufacturer or whatever your experience indicates. Some plants, remember, are heavy feeders.

The reservoir for the water may be a container of any size with bread trays, egg crating, or anything you can think of to fit over the tray to hold the mat with the plants. The edge of the mat should reach to the bottom of the reservoir.

You may line a box made of plywood and 2 x 4's with plastic pond liner and make a reservoir the size you want. I had one like this and used pots to hold bread trays over which I spread the mat. (Plastic plant trays and individual containers, such as butter tubs, cottage cheese containers, and Cool Whip containers make good individual reservoirs). Ask your friends to help by giving you their "garbage", and you will have free reservoirs and help keep the landfills from filling up!

One advantage to community trays is the increase in humidity as water evaporates from the mat. The reservoir will go dry faster when the humidity is low. There are several disadvantages to mat watering, and one that is mentioned most is algae. There are several ways to help with this problem:

- 1) use dark color mats to retard the growth.
- 2) chemicals such as Phyzan
- 3) just change them and wash the mats - this is easy on individual reservoirs.

Community mats may spread pests such as soil mealy bugs, and it is harder to change the mats with many plants on them. A common mat is fine with your soil for your baby plants and your older plants. Individual containers are better for new plants in isolation. A common commercial material has dark plastic with ghin felt, and is made for mat watering. It is sold in rolls or by the yard. The darker color really did seem to help retard the algae growth, or I just didn't notice it as much.

DO NOT GET COTTON! Cotton will rot. Buy the cheapest and darkest blanket of synthetic material that you can find.

One important thing for mat watering is to make contact between the wet mat and the soil in the pot. If you have flat bottomed pots, this is done by pushing the pot down onto the mat and twisting slightly. I also water from the top if I am placing the pot and plant for the first time.

If you don't have flat bottomed pots, you may use a wick to make the contact between the soil and the wet mat. I have heard this is not necessary, but I put in the wicks anyway.

Tie the wick through the hole in the bottom and leave a tail to come up into the soil in the pot. Some members leave these wicks in place and just wash and disinfect them as they do the pots. You may also push a wick through the hole and pot the plant as if you are wick watering. Then, wind the wick around on top of the mat, but under the pot, and repeat the initial watering to settle the pot.

When using individual containers, I try to cut the mat the size and shape of the pot going on the reservoir, as light on the mat encourages algae growth. I don't spend a great deal of time cutting the mat; I just hold the pot on the edge of the blanket and cut around the pot. Don't forget to leave a tail to go into the reservoir.

Don't try to get the water to rise a great distance before it gets to the pot. The mat may dry out, and the plant will suffer. The higher containers can be used to raise a plant closer to the light, if needed. Some of these containers have tops with a raised edge around the outer circumference, and I like those better.

I am collecting butter tubs, etc., so that I can have a supply of containers to fill and then just put the plant on it, take the old reservoir, and wash it so that it is ready for the next refill. You can change the mats at the same time and wash them. They do fine.

As you change the containers and mats, you can look at your plants and see how they are doing. Take off a leaf here, or a bloom stalk there, or repot if needed.

*From The Dixie News, publication of the Dixie AVS*

# Root Rot and/or Crown Rot

by Pat Hancock • West Chester, Ohio

About 75% of the phone calls that I get from people with "ailing" violets describe the condition known as root and/or crown rot.

The symptoms they describe are nearly always the same. Outside leaves becoming yellowed and mushy and plants looking wilted even though the soil is moist. These things can be caused by soil mealy bugs, but often they are caused by the water-fungi groups (pythium and phytophthora) that cause root and/or crown rot.

As with most violet problems, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure".

Violets should never be left sitting in a dish of water for more than one-half an hour. It is easy to water, get busy doing something else, and forget to go back and empty the dish in one-half hour, but this is a very dangerous thing to do.

Root and crown rot are caused by a plant being kept too wet for too long a period of time or by letting a plant go completely dry for a period of time and then flooding it with water that the dried up root system cannot handle. When a plant has been completely dry to the wilting stage, the tender roots are no longer able to take in a lot of water and so they sit there in the water and begin to decay. Decaying roots do not make white feeder roots, and the decay begins to go further and further up the plant until it reaches the crown. The crown becomes mushy and soft, and you have a full blown case of crown rot.

When a plant has gone completely dry or when repotting, it is best to give only small amounts of water every few days until the plant is no longer wilted or until a newly potted plant

starts to grow again. After a couple of weeks of "babying", you can resume normal watering. With these precautions, you will seldom get root and/or crown rot.

But, what if one of your favorite plants starts to show these symptoms? Do not delay! Knock it out of the pot as soon as you notice it and inspect the roots and crown. If roots break off easily to the touch and look dark brown with no white feeders, they are rotten and need to be removed. Check the crown by cutting through it with a (sharp) knife. If it is mushy, the rot is already in the crown. Cut the neck higher and higher until you see solid flesh with a dark ring around it and no sign of rot. Scrape the remaining neck. It may only be one-half to one inch left. Spray the entire plant that is left with a fungicide spray (funginex, Captan, etc.).

Let the plant air dry for fifteen minutes to one-half hour, and then plant in a sterile mix. It could be perlite and vermiculite or a 1/1/1 mix if your soil is sterile. Cover with a plastic bag after you have moistened it (not too much). Place it under lights in the coolest area. In about one month, it should start to grow again. If it does not, sadly, you have done your best. Leaves taken from a sick plant will seldom root, and saving the crown is really your only hope.

We seem to see more of this in the heat of the summer, so watch your plants closely and take the necessary steps as soon as you notice a problem.

*From The Violet Connection,  
publication of the Ohio State AVS*

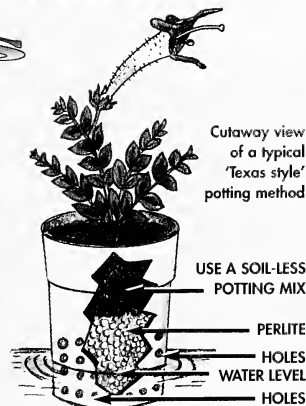
## Texas Pots

This popular method of self watering, is really another form of hydroponics. It is for cuttings and plants that would normally be grown in a 3" pot size, because 'Texas potting' uses readily available styrofoam drinking cups.

The lower half of the cup is filled with perlite. The plant is potted with soil-less mix in the top half of the cup. The cup actually sits in water. Perforate (as shown in the diagram), making sure that there are holes both above and below the water level. This will allow air to reach the perlite and prevent it from getting too wet. When working properly, the perlite acts as a wick, keeping the soil mix moist.

It is important that the soilless mix be very light and airy itself. Mixes with real soil added would not work well on this system.

It is a simple procedure to keep the water level fairly con-



stant. Never let it go above the top holes. Always monitor any new system carefully.

*From An Introduction to Gesneriads*



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

## *Rob's Dandy Lion*

*Exhibited by: Annie Simard*

*2001 AVS of Canada*

*National Show*

*Hybridized by: R. Robinson*

*Semiminiature*

# Planting by Moon Signs

## Moon in Aries

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds, pests, etc., and for cultivating.

## Moon in Taurus

Productive and moist, earthy and feminine. Used for planting many crops, particularly potatoes and root crops, and when hardness is important. Also used for lettuce, cabbage, and similar leafy vegetables.

## Moon in Gemini

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds and pests, and for cultivation.

## Moon in Cancer

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. This is the most productive sign, used extensively for planting and irrigation.

## Moon in Leo

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. This is the most barren sign, used only for killing weeds and for cultivation.

## Moon in Virgo

Barren and moist, earthy and feminine. Good for cultivation and destroying weeds and pests.

## Moon in Libra

Semi-fruitful and moist, airy and masculine. Used for planting many crops and producing good pulp growth and roots. A very good sign for flowers and vines. Also used for seeding hay, corn fodder, etc.

## Moon in Scorpio

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Nearly as productive as Cancer; used for the same purposes. Especially good for vine growth and sturdiness.

## Moon in Sagittarius

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for planting onions, seeding hay, and for cultivation.

## Moon in Capricorn

Productive and dry, earthy and feminine. Used for planting potatoes, tubers, etc.

## Moon in Aquarius

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for cultivation and destroying noxious growths, weeds, and pests.

## Moon in Pisces

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Used along with Cancer and Scorpio, especially good for root growth.

January Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Tue.	Leo	Fire	Barren	3rd
2 Wed. 6:34 pm	Virgo	Earth	Barren	3rd
3 Thu.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	3rd
4 Fri. 8:23 pm	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	3rd
5 Sat.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	4th 10:55 pm
6 Sun. 11:41 pm	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th
7 Mon.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th
8 Tue.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th
9 Wed. 4:57 am	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	4th
10 Thu.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	4th
11 Fri. 12:18 pm	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th
12 Sat.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th
13 Sun. 9:41 pm	Aquarius	Air	Barren	New 8:29 am
14 Mon.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	1st
15 Tue.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	1st
16 Wed. 9:00 am	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	1st
17 Thu.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	1st
18 Fri. 9:35 pm	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st
19 Sat.	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st
20 Sun.	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st
21 Mon. 9:47 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	2nd 12:47 pm
22 Tue.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	2nd
23 Wed. 7:28 pm	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd
24 Thu.	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd
25 Fri.	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd
26 Sat. 1:17 am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd
27 Sun.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd
28 Mon. 3:31 am	Leo	Fire	Barren	Full 5:50 pm
29 Tue.	Leo	Fire	Barren	3rd
30 Wed. 3:40 am	Virgo	Earth	Barren	3rd
31 Thu.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	3rd

February Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Fri. 3:44 am	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	3rd
2 Sat.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	3rd
3 Sun. 5:35 am	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd
4 Mon.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th 8:33 am
5 Tue. 10:21 am	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	4th
6 Wed.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	4th
7 Thu. 6:08 pm	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th
8 Fri.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th
9 Sat.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th
10 Sun. 4:15 am	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th
11 Mon.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th
12 Tue. 3:53 pm	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	New 2:41 am
13 Wed.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	1st
14 Thu.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	1st
15 Fri. 4:26 am	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st
16 Sat.	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st
17 Sun. 4:58 pm	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	1st
18 Mon.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	1st
19 Tue.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	1st
20 Wed. 3:50 am	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd 7:02 am
21 Thu.	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd
22 Fri. 11:16 am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd
23 Sat.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd
24 Sun. 2:36 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd
25 Mon.	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd
26 Tue. 2:47 pm	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd
27 Wed.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	Full 4:17 am
28 Thu. 1:47 pm	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	3rd

Reprinted with permission from *Llewellyn's 2002 Moon Sign Book*, published by Llewellyn Publications, ISBN 1-56718-953-9



# GROWING FOR SALE



by Sheila Walton

It is doubtful that one would become a millionaire from growing and selling African violets! However, it is possible to cover, or partly cover, the cost of your hobby through sales.

A little bit of planning is probably an advantage. How much space do you have? How much time do you have? How many pots? Potting mix, wicks, waterwells, fertilizer? Is there a variety which grows easily and well for you?

One of the most important aspects of growing for sale is where you will sell your plants. For members of my organization, Early Morn AV Group, this is not a problem. There exists a guaranteed market each November. All you have to do is label your plants and bring them for sale. Of course, help at the show selling plants or helping in other ways is always appreciated and is a way you can show your support for the club. Also, our monthly meetings have a sales table.

How many plants you grow is obviously limited somewhat by the available space and time you have. Space can be a problem, but it is surprising where plants can be put. All sorts of 'spare' space can be found, especially leading up to our annual show. Temporary growing areas, such as spare bedrooms, can be transformed into nurseries for your plants.

If you only have a small amount of time and space, you could try growing two plants of each type that you have; one for show and one for sale. This has the advantage in that you can choose the best one for the show, and you always have a back-up, if your prize plant has an accident! Or it could be sold. A plant grown with a view to entering the show is likely to be more cared for, will take more time, and would also be worthy of a larger price tag. If you do not want to sell it, it is always a source of leaves to grow more plants for you or others.

If you want to be more ambitious and grow a larger number of sale plants, choose plants that grow well for you, with a minimum of attention. Some plants grow symmetrically more easily than others. Some do better in natural light than others, and you are more likely to grow sale plants in natural light, because your light stands are full of show plants! Generally, the public seems to like flowers that are different to the ones obtained in nurseries so edged, two-tones, and fantasies often do well. Semi-minis would take less space, if you are interested in quantity rather than size. Trailers should also be considered, especially if you can put down a number of tip cuttings rather than leaves, which saves time.

If you are going to grow a number of plants, you will probably need to put down more than one leaf. We have had

success with putting down several leaves in a bowl or similar container. When the babies are fairly well established, I cut most of the mother leaf off to allow the babies to become self sufficient before transplanting them. If your aim is to have a number of plants, you may also find that you put up quite small plants that other growers might not bother with. As long as the baby has a visible center, it will probably do well. I have found that most of these small plants will come on all right, and they do not necessarily have to go into their own small pot, but can be planted around the edge of a pot until large enough to go on their own. By putting them around the edges, the roots will have plenty of air, and the plants have enough room to grow.

One advantage of growing plants to sell at our annual show is that it doesn't matter if they are in flower or not. They must have their name on the pot, but if they are not in flower they can still be sold. Flowering plants would of course bring you a slightly larger financial return.

If you have any unnamed plants, these can often be quite popular at other places that may require sale plants during the year.

You may like to branch out and talk to a small group during the year, perhaps a group to which you already belong. Most folks are interested in buying an African violet; especially when you've taken the time to talk to them about our favorite plant, and explain how to care for them.

African violets seem to grow quicker when they start in small pots and only get potted up when the pot is full of roots. The more you can pot up, little by little in size, the better and faster the plants will grow.

The next thing you will need to organize is a method of transporting a quantity of plants to the selling venue. Everyone has their own way of doing this. You may like to have a box with a number of plants in it, separated by plastic bags. Box lids can have holes cut in them to take the pots. Plants can be placed directly into the trunk of your car, supported by plastic bags. You will need to have the plants correctly named - check to see that they are true to their description. The club may take a 10% - 15% commission on the sale of all plants, which is one way you can contribute to the success of the club, while enjoying your hobby. The other advantage is that the more you grow, the more you learn.

From the *Newsletter* of the Early Morn AV Group, Inc.



# Fertilizers

by Nancy Robitaille

When I began research for this article, it was difficult to find all the information needed to develop a knowledgeable article. This fact encouraged me even more, and I felt it was high time someone wrote an article explaining the subject of fertilizers to beginners.

First of all, let us discuss what fertilizers mean to the indoor, or even the outdoor grower. When working for a large nursery in Laval, many people bought plants then returned to say their plants stopped flowering. Usually before they purchased the plant, the sales personnel gave them "explicit" instructions for their particular plant. "Fertilize them and put them in good light."

But what does that mean to the average beginner? Not much. As far as light is concerned, it can mean outdoors in strong sun to in the bathroom with the light sometimes lit. It was immediately recognized that we needed to know more about each plant's particular needs just as a cat or a cougar or a greyhound or a toy poodle has different needs.

One book became my horticultural bible. Reader's Digest's *Success with House Plants* offered the basic needs of most common and a few rare house plants including gesneriads. Before I left that seasonal job, I had almost memorized the ten favorite house plants' needs.

Soon I got into the habit of telling the prospective buyer that she should not grow African violets in the north-facing bedroom and suggested another more practical plant for that particular spot.

Once the buyer decided to buy a certain plant, time permitted, I would guide her over to the selection of twenty-five or so different fertilizers. No wonder the average beginning grower found the selection of a fertilizer for a particular plant so confusing.

It was really necessary after selling a plant to a client that she be taken to the fertilizer section and explain about the three numbers listed on all fertilizers.

Just what do these numbers represent? One fertilizer may be Cactu Crystra with numbers 7-44-14; another states the fertilizer is for flowers and vegetables with numbers 10-30-20; one is marked Peters Professional ALL PURPOSE 20-20-20; while another reads 10-20-5 for plants with flowers. Which

fertilizer should the client choose for her begonia, her fern, her African violet and her Old Man Cactus?

It's logical that these people were confused when some of our sales people said "The fertilizers are over there; go choose one."

## Plain Talk

The three numbers on every kind of fertilizer refers to the percentage of nutrients in the box of fertilizer. The first number is for nitrogen. Nitrogen gives a lush green foliage on all plants. When any plant has a yellowish cast, this is possibly because of a super abundance of nitrogen, although it could also be because of other matters such as an old leaf preparing to drop or a leaf that has received too much light.

The second number is for Phosphorous which promotes healthy root production. African violet growers choose fertilizers with a high second number since healthy roots tend to send up more buds for flowers. Variegated African violets need a fertilizer with a very high second number - as high as 50. Peter's carries a fertilizer with this high second number.

The third number is for potash and it is often called "tomato type" fertilizer which helps fruits to develop. African violets need a high third number for bud production as well.

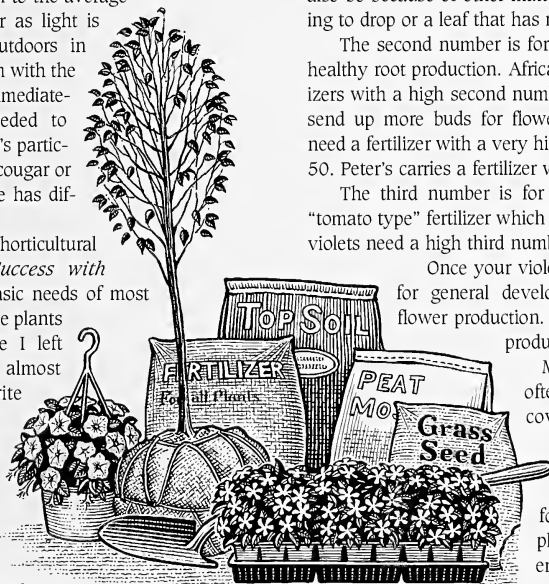
Once your violets have been using 20-20-20 for general development, they need more for flower production. Plants need other fertilizers to produce a better head of flowers.

Most growers change fertilizers often, so all three numbers are covered: Nitrogen for foliage, phosphorous for healthy roots which produces more flowers, and potash which is for the general health for the plant and which produces flowers and fruit.

When you need to buy fertilizer again, study the different types for your house plants. African violets have a large choice of liquid, granules (not recommended), sticks (which may burn the roots around the stick), and soluble powder. Most African violet clubs sell fertilizers for their best grower. Study and discuss the best for your plants.

Light is the most important thing in the life of any plant since the plant takes in light to make food for the roots. Fertilizer is only the dessert.

Either feeding the roots or foliar feeding with fertilizer produces healthy, beautiful African violets you can be proud of.



From *Chatter*, Journal of the AVS of Canada

# The Story of 'Bristol's Popsicle'

by Rob & Olive Ma Robinson

Sometimes, an 'old dog' can be taught a new trick. I've grown *Streptocarpus* for about fifteen years, and have been hybridizing them for the last ten. On occasion, I've grown a few for show, though I'm usually reluctant to, given the space that most of the "showier" varieties would take up on the light stand, or in the car going to the show. When I have, I've never bothered to give them the same special treatment given to the violets. Usually, if the plant is mature enough, and has reasonably good culture, it will look good, sometimes very good, by the day of the show.

The biggest difference in growing streps for show was that I did not disbud them as I did my African violets. Streps and violets produce their blooms in different ways. African violets generally produce just one bloom stem from each leaf axil. Disbudding violets serves two purposes. First, to encourage development of larger (for standard varieties) and lush foliage and, second, to produce the maximum bloom on the day of the show. Streps, however, produce multiple bloom stems, sequentially, one at a time, along each individual leaf.

This made timing of peak bloom difficult and, when a leaf had already produced eight to ten, or more, bloom stalks, it tended to look old and tired. This meant that the very large, older, leaves didn't tend to remain on the plant after they had "bloomed themselves out", as could be done with an African violet. My choice had always been to try to have plants of just the right age at the time of the show - old enough to be able to produce large, mature leaves and lots of bloom, but not so old that the most mature leaves hadn't finished producing bloom and had begun to look tired.

I've learned, though, that this isn't the only, or even the best, way to grow streps for show. In October of 1999, Olive asked me what varieties of streps I would recommend for her growing as show plants. She had never grown one for show before, and wanted a new challenge after having done so well growing violets. One of the varieties she selected was 'Bristol's Petticoats', a lovely variety that I agreed should make a very showy plant.

She chose an out-of-bloom plant in a 3" pot, which she immediately potted into a shallow, 6" pan pot. All flower buds were removed, and it was kept disbudded from this point onward. Since she wicks most of her violets when growing for show, she used the same soil mix for 'Bristol's Petticoats'. This mix is three parts coarse perlite, two parts Pro-Mix BX, and one part coarse vermiculite. This was quite a large

increase in pot size, so it would be carefully top-watered until its roots could fill such a large pot. For the next four to six weeks, it just sat there, not seeming to grow at all. Then, it suddenly began to grow very fast. By February, when we left to spend two weeks in Taiwan, it had become quite a large plant.

While we were away, of course, our staff was directed to keep it watered but not to groom it in any way. By the time we returned, the plant was in bloom. Except that it wasn't 'Bristol's Petticoats', it was 'Bristol's Popsicle'! It apparently had been mislabeled when it was put into the 3" pot. In any event, it had become such a beautiful plant that Olive wasn't going to give up on it now!

By March, about seven weeks before the AVS of Rochester show, 'Bristol's Popsicle' had become quite large. Some of the oldest leaves had already produced ten to twelve blossom stems that had been removed. Yet, they were still healthy and green. They just kept growing, even after they had produced all of the bloom they were going to. Apparently, streps could be disbudded and encouraged to grow large without any ill effects. By now, it seemed to take up water as soon as it got it. It never was put onto a reservoir and wick-watered. Top-watered when it was small, it was now saucer-watered from the bottom. It became easier to water this way and by March, it easily could consume a full saucer of water. Having outgrown its 6" pot, it was repotted into an 8" pan pot at this time.

About five weeks before the show, disbudding was stopped and it was allowed to bloom. About two weeks before the show, it appeared to be in full bloom - just in time to appear on television! The NBC affiliate in Rochester sent a crew to our place, and filmed an interview with us for their evening news. We thought that this would be the best it would look, a bit too early for the show. It was loaded with flowers, and the foliage was large, lush, and full. Since it was first selected last October, only three large leaves needed to be removed. We took a photograph, and Olive removed all the blooms that we thought wouldn't last until show time.

Guess what? It looked even better for the show! If only a gesneriad other than an African violet could win Best in Show - it would have to settle for Best "Other" Gesneriad.

*From VioletsFun Photo Journal*

# Turgor Pressure

by Brenda Stride

Isn't it always the way! The day you are very busy, you suddenly notice that you have neglected your plants for just a little too long? You notice that the leaves are drooping ever so pleadingly over the edge of the pots. If they could actually talk to you, they would probably be begging for "Water, please!" This has happened to me on more occasions than I care to count. If I am really lucky, the plant will forgive my neglect and continue to grow. However, I have learned over the course of time that I shouldn't continue this road of neglect if I want my plants to survive and do well. The stress of not being watered on a regular basis will eventually take its toll on the plant, and you might have one more plant for your compost pile.

Being a teacher has helped me learn a little more about the natural process and the language used to describe what happens when leaves wilt. We all know that if you don't water your plants, the leaves begin to droop. Some plants droop far more noticeably than others. I have noticed that when my husband does not water his *Streptocarpus* plants, the leaves droop ever-so-pleadingly. Other plants will go unnoticed because their leaves don't droop. They are, one day, as he says "crisp". However, did you ever wonder why and how this happens? Each plant is made up of a variety of cells. All individual leaf cells are made up of tiny organelles, each of which has a specific job to do. Some of the organelles, the chloroplasts (which contain chlorophyll) for example, are responsible for the process of photosynthesis. Photosynthesis is the process by which the chloroplasts of the leaf cell combine water and carbon dioxide to make the sugars that the plant uses as food. The waste product of this process is oxygen. These organelles also give the leaf its green color. Other organelles, plastids, store food and eliminate wastes. However, the organelles responsible for helping soft-leaved plants to maintain some rigidity are known as vacuoles. This rigidity also has a name - it is known as Turgor Pressure.

If you were to compare the vacuole to a balloon, it is easier to see how this process works. Compare a vacuole full of

water with a balloon full of air. When inflated, it will look "full". Now, as you slowly let the air out of the balloon, deflating it, it will grow limp. When you forget to water your plant, the water that is in the vacuole is used up and the vacuole slowly deflates like the balloon. When you have forgotten to water, the plant wilts, and the small pores (stomatas) in the leaf close. This helps reduce water loss and permits the plant to survive temporarily. When the pores are closed, however, this limits food production, since photosynthesis requires carbon dioxide which enters the leaf through the pores. The leaves now no longer have anything to hold them rigid, so they droop over, like the balloon. Wilting reduces the plant's ability to produce its food supply, and inhibits cell enlargement and growth. Blowing the balloon up again will return it to its "full" look. Watering your plant enables the vacuoles to do their job - they fill up with water, and hold the leaf rigid so that the leaf can continue with the process of photosynthesis. When all the conditions are right for your plant, the stomatas will be open, allowing the process of photosynthesis to proceed. Repeated negligence, however, will eventually put an end to the plant's life.

Turgor pressure is what enables your plant to live a healthy life. The right amount of water on a regular basis keeps the leaves healthy and in a rigid position so that the process of photosynthesis happens. Too much water, well...if you blew up the balloon just a little too far, it would explode! However, for your plant, it would be more like trying to put eight ounces of orange juice into a six ounce glass, it would overflow! Too much water and the vacuoles couldn't handle it either.

I would continue to follow the advice that I saw written in a 1976 African Violet Magazine, " ...don't let your African violets get to the wilting stage. Keep them watered - but don't over-water. More African violets are probably ruined by over-watering, under-watering, or poor drainage than by all other causes combined". Good advice then, and good advice now.

*From African Violet and Gesneriad News*



## Candied Violets

by Ina Beaver

Beat one or two egg whites until frothy. Cut single or semi-double African violet blooms with enough stem to hold with your fingers. Brush egg white on the front and back of the blossom with a small paint brush, and sprinkle with sugar.

Place on waxed paper to set - do not refrigerate.

Place on a frosted cake or squares.

Paint two or three layers of melted semi sweet chocolate on the back of silk leaves and refrigerate until firm. Peel off, and place with your violet blossoms. The backs of the silk leaves produce chocolate leaves with veins showing.

*From Chatter, publication of the AVS of Canada*

# MINIATURES AND SEMI-MINIATURES

by Doris Brownlie • Mississauga, ON

When we first grew the "little ones" in 1976 they were nothing like the varieties we see in shows today. They suckered regularly, had little symmetry, often double crowned, and six blooms on a plant was quite acceptable for entry into a show. Now, thanks to hybridizers of renown, we have these little ones winning "Best in Show."

**Choice of plants** - Look for symmetrical plants that stay small and bloom heavily with blossoms standing above the foliage. Choose a mixture of colors and a variety of foliage, and check that each plant is blooming according to the hybridizer's description. Watch the show results for consistent winners.

**Propagation** - Leaves may be started 2, 3 or 4 to a 2 1/2" square pot filled with a moist mixture of 75% coarse vermiculite, 25% perlite, and a dash of horticultural charcoal. Cut the petiole on an angle to promote maximum growth about 3/4" from the leaf, plant it in the corner of the pot, and stand the pot into a tray filled with about 1 1/2 centimeters fertilized water. We use Peters 12-36-14, 1/4 teaspoon to 4 liters water, with one drop of Superthrive. Sometimes we alternate this with 20-20-20.

**Potting up** - Allow plantlets to develop well before separating them. There is no special rule for the size of the pots, but the general understanding is that miniatures should be confined to 2 1/4" pots or smaller, and semis should grow in 2 1/4, 2 1/2, or 3" squatty pots. I find that semis tend to remain smaller when growing in a 2 1/4" pot. The maximum size for semis is 8" in diameter. Minis must not be more than 6". Measuring them with embroidery hoops before taking them to the show will save a messy heart-ache around the classification table. When they get beyond these sizes, simply remove one or two rows of leaves, remove the plant from the pot, cut away a section of the root-ball, and replant, placing fresh soil around the bare stem. We do this after every time the plant blooms. If done often, it does not shock the plant, resulting in marked leaves. After repotting, be careful not to over-water.

**Soil** - We use a light textured soil which allows the roots to breathe. Fill the pot lightly, and make sure the soil is level with the top of the pot, with the small centre leaves just above the level of the soil.

**Maintenance** - We water every four days with luke warm water mixed with the fertilizer described in the potting up section. We put a dash of water on top of the soil, and fill the saucer half full. We let the plant stand in water for about 1/2 an hour. Then we empty the saucers still containing water. More plants are killed from over-watering than from under-watering. Try not to let the plant go limp. Some roots will die, resulting in marked leaves. We give them twelve to thirteen hours of light from one cool white and one Gro-lux tube. (We use a timer for a more consistent routine.) They are about twenty centimeters from the lights, with the lighter leaved plants at the ends of the shelf and the variegated and darker leaved plants in the middle. The ideal temperature is fifteen to

twenty-five degrees Celsius, and humidity should be more than 40%. If the temperature is too high, the blossoms are small and streaked. If the humidity is too low, the leaves tend to curl, and fewer blooms appear. Plants may be lightly misted with warm water if they are not standing in the sun.

**Grooming** - Don't crowd your plants. We begin with five plants to a row. As they grow, we graduate to four plants to a row. Each plant requires its own space. Crowded plants will attract a mildew problem. Constantly remove spent blossoms and outer rows of leaves. If you groom constantly, your plants will reward you with natural beauty.

## GROWING A MINIATURE OR SEMI-MINIATURE SHOW PLANT

### SELECTION OF A PLANT:

- (a) Does the plant grow well for show? Look in the magazines to see if that variety has won any awards.
- (b) Does it produce an abundance of bloom? Do the blooms stand up well in a nice "halo" or "head"?
- (c) Is the foliage distributed evenly, with each row of leaves overlapping the row below without gaps or spaces?
- (d) Am I familiar with the growing and blooming habits of this plant?
- (e) With a variegated plant, do the leaves have enough chlorophyll to produce a good head of bloom?
- (f) Is it a good strong plant of the variety, usually the strongest one from the clump? Is it blooming true according to the description in the Master Variety List?

### TIMING:

For a Spring show, select your plants in January, repot them leaving four to six leaves on the plant, put them in the right position on the shelf, under the right light for the variety, and remove all blossoms and buds. After that, about every two weeks, check them thoroughly, turning them if necessary and removing bloom stalks until about eight weeks before the show. (This timing varies with different varieties and conditions.) Remove any suckers that form, and remove primary leaves which are completely covered by the ones above them. Use leaf supports for aid with symmetry.

About five weeks before the show, gently guide the peduncles up through the foliage to create a halo or bouquet effect with the bloom. Brush the leaves gently to remove any dust.

### JUDGING

1. Is my plant clean and well brushed with damaged and primary leaves removed if they do not interfere with the symmetry? Insecticide or mineral stains may be removed with a Q Tip dipped in a mixture of one teaspoon vinegar to one litre water. (They tell me saliva on a Q Tip also does the job.)

2. Is it the right size for the class? (eight inches for semis, six inches for minis)
3. Are there enough blooms on the plant? The number varies according to variety and size, but should be sufficient, according to the size of the plant, to make a pleasing, balanced exhibit.
4. Have I cut off all spent blossoms? Cut them close to the peduncle, with no nubs showing.
5. Have I removed all suckers from my plant? Check on the last day for these as they appear quickly.
6. Does my plant have a neck from the lower leaves having been removed? This MUST be corrected, either by pushing the root ball down in the pot and filling in a little soil, or by removing the plant from the pot, and cutting off a little of

the root ball, replacing the plant, and filling soil around the neck to the level of the top of the pot. (This should be done at least four weeks before the show.) DO NOT pile soil above the level of the pot to hide the neck.

7. Have I checked that my plant is insect and disease free?
8. Does the plant have sufficient water to last the duration of the show? Watering one day before with one teaspoon. "Sturdy" to four liters water helps to give the plant strength and adds sheen to the leaves.
9. Are some blooms hidden by foliage? Ease them up slowly & carefully.

Happy growing! Happy showing!

From *Chatter*, The Journal of the AVS of Canada

## Coming Events



### January 12 & 13 - FLORIDA

AVS of SW Florida Show/Sale  
Ft. Myers  
Lee County Garden Council Bldg.  
Ft. Myers, FL  
Both Days: 9am - 4pm  
Info: Lillian Scott (941) 542-9193

### February 8 - 10 - FLORIDA

Upper Pinellas AVS 43rd Annual Show  
Crossroads Mall  
East Bay Drive (686) and US 19  
Clearwater, FL  
Info: Phyllis King (727) 398-7450  
Email: Anita Marshall [tamrshl@juno.com](mailto:tamrshl@juno.com)

### February 9 & 10 - CALIFORNIA

Foothill AVS Display/Sale  
Westfield Shoppingtown West Covina  
The Plaza at West Covina  
112 Plaza Drive  
West Covina, CA  
Feb 9 - 10am - 8pm  
Feb 10 - 11am - 7pm  
Info: Chris Hedberg (626) 797-7525  
Email: [chviolet@juno.com](mailto:chviolet@juno.com)

### February 9 & 10 - CALIFORNIA

Ventura County AVS Annual Sale  
Pacific View Mall  
Main Street & Mills Rd  
Ventura, CA  
Mall Hours  
Info: Adrienne Stringer (661) 296-6440  
Email: [VCAVS1@aol.com](mailto:VCAVS1@aol.com)

### February 9 - ARIZONA

Desert Sun AVS Show/Sale  
Christown Mall  
19th Ave and Bethany Home Rd  
Phoenix, AZ  
Hours: 10am - 4pm  
Info: (623) 972-6895  
(480) 922-0959



### February 9 - FLORIDA

First Lakeland AVS Show/Sale  
Christ Lutheran Church  
2715 Lakeland Hills Blvd.  
Lakeland, FL

### February 22 & 23 - FLORIDA

Tampa AVS 26th Annual Judged Show/Sale  
Farm Bureau  
100 S Mulrennen Rd  
SW corner Hwy 60 & Mulrennen  
Valrico, FL  
Feb 22 - noon - 7pm  
Feb 23 - 9am - 5pm  
Info: Dottie Cesario (813) 494-5775  
Info: [momoney@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:momoney@tampabay.rr.com)  
Mina Minish (813) 681-1910

### February 23 & 24 - OKLAHOMA

AVS of Greater Tulsa Show/Sale  
Tulsa Garden Center  
2435 South Peoria  
Tulsa, OK  
Feb 23 - 10am - 4pm  
Feb 24 - noon - 4pm  
Info: Rose Howlett (918) 627 - 7395

### March 2 - TEXAS

Spring Branch AVS 23rd Annual Show/Sale  
Houston Arboretum Nature Center  
4501 Woodway Drive (in Memorial Park)  
Hours: 10am - 4:30pm

### March 8 - 10 - MINNESOTA

Lake Area Violet Growers Show/Sale  
Har Mar Mall  
County Road B and Snelling  
Roseville, MN  
Mar 8 - 10am - 9pm  
Mar 9 - 10am - 6pm  
Mar 10 - 11am - 6pm  
Info: Nadyne Olsen (763) 757 - 6490

### March 9 & 10 - LOUISIANA

Sundowners AVS Show/Sale  
Baton Rouge Garden Center  
7950 Independence Blvd.  
Baton Rouge, LA

### March 9 & 10 - FLORIDA

AVS of Pensacola Show/Sale  
Scottish Rite Temple  
2 East Wright Street  
Pensacola, FL  
Mar 9 - 2pm - 5pm  
Mar 10 - noon - 5pm  
Info: Louise Merritt (850) 476-5808  
Email: [gflavettemerritt@cs.com](mailto:gflavettemerritt@cs.com)



### March 9 & 10 - FLORIDA

Gulf AVC Judged Show  
Garden Council and Activity Center  
2646 Cleveland Ave.  
Fort Myers, FL  
Info: Cathy Carter (941) 768 - 3396

### March 9 & 10 - FLORIDA

Fantasy AVC AVSA Judged Show  
Oak Hill Hospital Enrichment Center  
Cortez Blvd. (Rt. 50)  
Mar 9 - 11am - 5pm  
Mar 10 - noon - 5pm

### March 16 - NEW YORK

Sweet Water AVS Show/Sale  
West Sayville Volunteer Fire Dept. Hall  
Atlantic Ave and Montauk Hwy  
West Sayville, NY  
Info: Email: [eggbeaterz@aol.com](mailto:eggbeaterz@aol.com)

### March 21 - 24 - SOUTH CAROLINA

Dixie AVS 2002 Convention  
Holiday Inn Oceanfront  
415 S. Ocean Blvd  
Myrtle Beach, SC  
Info: Lorena Bunn (252) 747 - 8917

### April 6 & 7 - NEW JERSEY

AVC of Morris County 7th Annual Show/Sale  
Frelinghuysen Arboretum  
53 East Hanover Avenue  
Morristown, NJ  
Info: Jill Fischer (908) 464-4417  
Email: [HEJGFischer@worldnet.att.net](mailto:HEJGFischer@worldnet.att.net)

### April 20 & 21 - CANADA

Société des Saintpaulia de Montréal Judged Show  
Chalet du parc Maisonneuve  
4601 Sherbrooke Street East  
Montreal, Quebec, Canada  
Hours: 10am - 4pm  
Info: Monique Beaucage (514) 990-5701  
Email: [monique\\_beaucage@hotmail.com](mailto:monique_beaucage@hotmail.com)

### April 27 & 28 - CANADA

Lakeshore AVS of Toronto Annual Show/Sale  
Sherway Gardens Centre Square  
25 The West Mall  
Etobicoke, ON  
April 27 - 11am - 6pm  
April 28 - noon - 6pm  
Info: Vivian Beeching (905) 279-1758  
Email: [vivian@communityofchrist.ca](mailto:vivian@communityofchrist.ca)



# Soil

by Ina Beaver

All my houseplants receive the same treatments, whether soil, water, or fertilizer, except my cactus, which likes one part Pro-mix, one part rinsed sand. If a plant doesn't like it, out it goes. I'm too busy to pamper. Ditto for a plant that doesn't perform well under my conditions. I always use a sterilized soil mix I make up myself. There are as many soilless recipes as there are growers, I'm sure, and I have tried many of them. Currently I am using the following recipe:

- 4 qts pro-mix
- 2 qts coarse Vermiculite
- 2 qts perlite
- 2 tbs dolomite lime
- 1 tbsp fungicide (Ferbam)
- 3 tbsp filter box carbon (for fish tanks)

Moisten the pro-mix with 1-2 cups hot water, cover the container, place in 200° F. oven, and steam for one hour. Cool, add the rest of the ingredients, and put in covered containers. Use in a minimum of two weeks time.

We cannot buy the horticultural charcoal here any longer, and I like to use it as a soil sweetener. That's the reasoning behind the aquarium filter. Maybe its not even necessary.

I should try one tsp lime per one gallon of water every couple of weeks drained well through the soil instead of once a month. I should also repot more often, at least every three months for miniatures and semiminiatures, and every four to six months for standard sized pots. I could easily do this if I did not have far too many plants and other interests!

This past summer, I used a grocery store brand of peat moss instead of my usual brand of premier Canadian peat moss. Yuck! Two months later there were shiny rings of fungus around the closed containers and the plants potted up using this mix were really sick looking and good only for the compost.

The old Fisher formula is terrific and bears repeating to anyone reading this who is new to our beloved violets and gesneriads.

## Fisher Formula Potting Mix:

- 8 qts peat moss
- 2 qts Premier potting soil
- 2 cups horticultural charcoal
- 2 qts vermiculite
- 2 qts perlite
- 1 cup bone meal
- 1 cup dolomite lime
- 1 tbsp fermate

Homogenize (mostly to get rid of fungus, gnat eggs, and, occasionally, weed seeds) the peat moss and potting soil by adding two quarts of hot water, cover, and bake one hour at 200° F. Turn off oven and cool. Add other ingredients. Mix well. Store in covered containers. Use after two weeks storage.

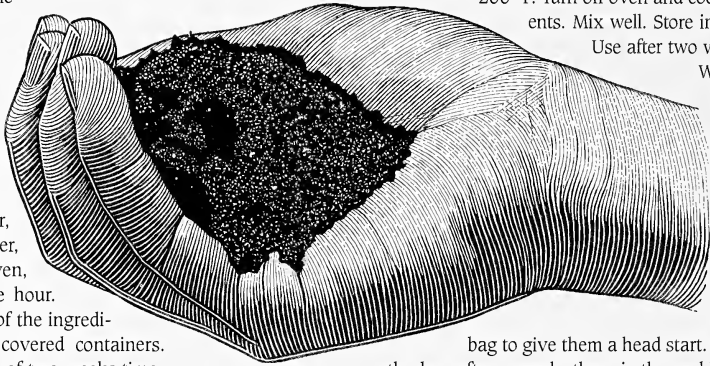
Why? This allows beneficial bacteria to multiply. The bone meal makes a mold which can be skimmed off the mix. I don't like it when it appears after I've potted up plants and covered with a

bag to give them a head start. If I haven't removed the bag after a week, there is the mold. It is unsightly but does dissipate quickly.

## Potting Mix for Wicking: Want to wick? Try this:

- 8 qts screened peat
- 2 qts sterilized soil
- 2 qts vermiculite
- 2 qts horticultural charcoal
- 6 qts perlite
- 1 cup bone meal
- 1 cup calcium carbonate
- 1 tbsp fermate, ferban or ferbam

Dampen with two quarts of water. I would sterilize the peat moss and soil at 200° F. for one hour. Wick with nylon wicking material 1/4 inch wide and twice the pot depth in length. Old pantyhose cut sideways works great. This is good for busy people. I personally stopped using this method some years ago when I had pythium fungus.





**Iris Keating**  
149 Loretto Court  
Claremont, CA 91711

A name reservation costs \$1.00 and is valid for two years, after which time it may be extended two years for an additional \$1.00. Registration of the plant is \$5.00 unless completed within the reservation period, in which case the balance is then \$4.00. Please make check payable to AVSA.

**Nancy Platnick – Bay Shore, NY**

\***Elizabethan Ruffle** (9068) 8/8/01 (N. Platnick) Single lavender two-tone ruffled pansy. Dark green, longifolia, ruffled/red back. **Standard**

\*\*\*\*

**George Gay – Wickliffe, KY**

\***Imperial Lace** (9069) 9/8/01 (G. Gay) Single-semidouble white sticktite ruffled pansy/variable red-purple eye, edge. **Variegated** dark green, white and pink, plain, ruffled. **Standard**

\*\*\*\*

**Linda Stickney – Maroa, IL**

\***United We Stand** (9070) 9/29/01 (L. Stickney) Semidouble-double purple star. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

## NAME RESERVATIONS

**Brenda Nyce – Glen Mills, PA**

\* Barbera \* Beaujolais \* Bordeaux \* Cabernet Sauvignon \* Cabernet Franc \* Chablis \* Chardonnay \* Chenin Blanc \* Merlot \* Muscat \* Petit Sirah \* Pinot Noir \* Pinot Blanc \* Sauvignon Blanc \* Syrah \* Viognier \* White Zinfandel \* Zinfandel

## REGISTRATION CHANGE

At the hybridizer's request, the following foliage description change has been made:

**Strawberry Sundae** (9029) **Variegated** light to dark green and cream, plain, scalloped.

### Editorial Corrections to the AVML # 10

Delete from AVML #10 'Buckeye Blythe Spirit'. The correct entry is '**Buckeye Blithe Spirit**', reg. #8629.

**Hot Summer Day** (K. Stork) Semidouble-double vivid red-coral/dark red sparkle **edge**.

**Prairie Springtime** (K. Stork) Single-semidouble pink large filled **pansy**/thin fuchsia sparkle **edge**.

## Pot Maintenance

by Ruth Greico

As I sit down to write this article, I say to myself that as soon as I finish, I will take my own advice and do my regular plant pot maintenance. Now you know the key topic of this article!

Many of us grow our violets in individual saucers and, whether we water from the top or the bottom, these saucers definitely need to be washed on a regular basis. I try to wash mine at least once a month, if not more frequently. The logic I apply here is that even if it is just dust in the saucer - if you allow your violet to sit in the water for even the briefest of time, the plant will "ingest" the dust. I can't help but think that this is absolutely not good for the healthy growth of your plant. Just think about what else the plant might absorb in a saucer that has not been cleaned out in a long period of time!

My suggestion is to wash the saucers with either a bleach-

ing solution or, my personal favorite, Lysol®. Indeed, I have noticed that once the plants are returned to the sparkling clean saucer they almost seem to look better.

What I do is put the Lysol® in a small dish, dip a small kitchen scrub brush into the dish and use the brush to scrub the saucer. Then I run the saucer under hot tap water, shake off the excess water, and allow the saucer to return to room temperature before I place my violet back. One additional suggestion, just in case there are any additional "unmentionables" lurking in your saucers that go untouched by your cleaning. Make sure you place each specific violet back in the same saucer from which it came. This will hold any epidemic to a bare minimum.

Good luck and happy growing!

# Thinking Small



**Pat Richards**

15105 S. Seminole Drive  
Olathe, KS 66062-3004  
email: [Patter257@aol.com](mailto:Patter257@aol.com)

In my previous article, the importance of cultivar selection was discussed. Now that you've identified several to try, let's take the next couple of steps which will lead to growing success.

## ENVIRONMENT

All of us have a different set of elements to work with when deciding where to grow our African violets. The important thing to do is to make these elements work for us. Let's review the absolutely perfect environment for miniatures and semiminiatures, beginning with *temperature*. Ideal temperature is just as we enjoy: within a 10-degree range of 72 degrees (23 Celsius). Plants grown on the cool side of this range will grow slower, but will be more compact and will have excellent blossom color. Plants grown on the warm side will grow fast, tend to be more open, and will show different blossom color, particularly with bi colors. Cool-grown plants will hold their blooms for a longer period of time than warm-grown, an essential consideration for show growing. It is dangerous to grow violets too cool as they will freeze (as I experienced one year when the pilot-light in my furnace went out over my Christmas vacation). It is also dangerous to grow them too warm over prolonged periods (they become more susceptible to root rot and other pathogens and will turn to mush before your eyes!)

**Humidity** - The ideal humidity is 40-60%. However, closer to the high range is more desirable for growing show plants. Sadly, our home environments are designed to control humidity, keeping it comfortable for humans, not plants. Unless you live in the tropics, you will have to provide more humidity.

**Air circulation** is a critical consideration as it affects the growth and health of our violets to a great degree. Maintaining good air circulation will help prevent diseases such as mildew. It also improves plant transpiration to help them grow more compact and strong.

Considering these three factors, it is easy to see why most people will need to modify their home environment somewhat to meet the criteria necessary to grow a good show plant. In particular, they will need to exercise good temperature control, and increase humidity and air circulation around the plants. Air circulation is addressed by running a small fan 24 hours a day (mildew cannot tell time). Humidity, on the other hand, is not so easy. A simple solution is to place your minis and semis on trays of small pebbles or rocks, and to pour water over the rocks allowing the evaporation to increase humidity around the plants. (Matting offers the same type of benefit, as does egg-crating). Experts question the effectiveness of this, pointing out it only raises humidity within a few inches of the rocks and benefits the plants very little.

Another possible solution is wrapping your plant stand in plastic. This does work, but again, only to a certain extent. The wrapping must be fairly tight and be sealed well. Furthermore, accessibility of plants is hindered, as is visibility. It also depends on your plant stands: if your plants are on reservoirs the effect on humidity will be less than if you have your plants on matting/egg crating. A more limiting alternative is to grow your minis/semis in aquariums under lights. The aquariums should have glass tops or at least be able to be sealed with plastic. As a practical matter, only minis and semis can be grown under these conditions, and many of these do very well, Pittman's "Precious Pink" being a prime example. The pitfalls of growing your plants enclosed are twofold: air circulation is impaired and temperature is increased. Both can be addressed using ingenious methods, just understand enclosed growing is not a perfect solution.

A rather unique technique is to grow your plants exclusively in a small, enclosed room, as one of our local growers did in a small bedroom of her home. The door was kept shut at all times, and windows were always closed and covered. Fans ran continuously. She used matting for all



plants, and was able to maintain humidity more than 60%, with temperature being a problem only on the top shelves (too hot, of course). Her plants grew large and luxurious in a very short period of time, although she had problems keeping her small ones in size. While many of us cannot afford this luxury, it is an example of what it takes for these plants to perform optimally.

## **BRIGHT LIGHT**

This is one area where minis and semis differ quite dramatically from standards as they can take and actually need more light to perform well. Bear in mind the quality of light is greatly affected by proximity to and age of lights. Essentially, the further the distance from the lights, the longer length of time you'll need to keep them on, and the older the bulb, the dimmer it will burn.

**Distance** - Minis and semis perform best when grown 5-8" from the lights. This is measured from the tops of the foliage (not blooms or pot) to the bottoms of the actual bulb (not the fixture). Adjustments can be made by varying the length of time the lights are on: if you are unable to adjust the height of your light fixtures, simply leave the lights on for a longer period of time. Keep a close watch on your plants, making whatever adjustments are necessary until rounded rosettes with nicely overlapping foliage are formed.

Pay attention to your cultivars, and try to find the best spots for them. A few considerations: some people believe light green foliage needs the most direct light. Others believe it is the darkest foliage which needs best light. Still others believe variegated do/don't. Generally, girl foliage needs less light or it bunches in the center. Also remember light production is strongest at the center of the lights and most dim at the ends and on the sides. (As an aside, I have checked and sacked groceries for a year now and have discovered for as many different customers there are, there are an equal number of reasons for sacking/not sacking in paper/plastic and for exactly the equal/opposite reasons.) Let me repeat: pay close attention to *your* plants. Visit them frequently, turning them as needed to keep growth even, and moving as necessary to create a compact rosette. If the centers begin to become tight, or if bleaching occurs as result of too much light (the foliage will become pale and washed out near the end of the light cycle but return to normal during the dark period), less light is indicated. Please note: the Optimara "Little Jewels" series of miniatures and it's "Indian Girl" series of semiminiatures generally need less light than other minis and semis, and are some of the few which do well in natural light.

A final consideration is rotation or turning your plants. Ideally, your best minis/semis should be looked at daily. This allows you to pay close attention to their growth and to turn them as often as needed to maintain even growth. The rule of thumb is a quarter turn of the plant with every watering; however, with show plants you should turn them whenever required. To illustrate this, consider a story from

St. Louis: veteran show grower and perennial winner, Ardath Miller, grew a fantastic "Rob's Sticky Wicker" by placing it on a Rubbermaid turntable, and rotating and watering it every day. The result was an exquisite and almost perfectly balanced show winner. Given, this was a trailer, but the lesson remains: if you notice uneven growth it is probably too late!

**Type** - Most growers use basic cool white lights. They are very inexpensive and widely available. However, my feeling is if you're going to devote a lot of time and effort to produce a superior plant, providing the ultimate in light will further enhance your plant's performance.

Lighting manufacturers produce lamps specifically for plant growth. Within that spectrum, some lamps are designed for foliage/young plants while others are designed for blooming/mature plants. The ideal show grower would use the former lamp in early growth stages up to the time of "bloom-boosting", and would then switch to the latter type for ultimate bloom production. (A caveat: the above statement is less applicable to the minis and semis than standards, simply because production of lush, beautiful foliage is not as critical to the small ones as to standards). There are several types of lamps which simulate daylight. These types are good for both foliage and bloom production. They also produce truer colors. This particular type has always been my ideal choice of lamp.

Cautionary statements: when using a new type of lamp, only experiment with one shelf. When installing new lamps, shorten the time the light is on as they burn most intensely when first installed. Further, it is always good to remember the rule of "spring forward, fall back": based on daylight-saving time. When you turn your clock ahead, change the bulb at the front of your light stand. In fall, when the clock is adjusted back, change the lamp at the back of the light stand.

Good results may be had by using two cool whites, combining a warm white bulb with a cool white bulb (rotating plants and a watchful eye are essential because of the uneven, different light being produced). Similarly, certain cultivars can be grown very well in natural light (in windowsills). As a final thought, I'll offer this: great show plants can be produced using any of these means. However, I have always felt while the difference produced by the plant-specific lights may be unmeasurable, what it provides to me psychologically is immeasurable.

## **NEXT TIME**

It seems we're proceeding very slowly with this series of articles. However, the information is quite detailed. Next time we'll discuss the best system of watering for show plants, with a possible short introduction to fertilizers.

In the meantime, now is the best time to peruse commercial catalogs for those hard-to-find or new varieties you must try this year. Get your orders in early to avoid disappointment!

# Specialty Plants – Chimeras and Sinningias

by Neil Lipson

Two of my favorite specialty plants are chimeras and sinningias.

I found that the easiest way to propagate chimeras is by removing the crown, and letting suckers grow from the old stem. This will produce four or more plants a month.

Propagation from flower stems (very young flower stems) is torture. It usually works, but can take months. However, it does almost always produce a true plant every time.

To use the first method, wait until the plant is mature, remove the middle row of leaves and throw them away (they will not produce chimera plants). Then, with a scalpel or Exacto knife, cut the crown off the main stem just above the lower level of leaves. Start this is sphagnum moss. Wait until the old plant produces suckers, and pull off all but the biggest two or three. When the biggest sucker is as big as a half dollar, cut it off, start it, and wait for the next sucker to grow. You can do this for a few months until the old plant loses the leaves. By then, you could have a dozen or so plants.

I found that some chimeras are more "reliable" than others, meaning that some do revert to a solid color. The worst was my plant of 'Red Pinwheel'. The best is 'Moonbeam'. The "best" to the "worst", as far as reverting to a solid color, in my experience are:

## BEST

'Moonbeam'

'Mona Loa'

'Patsy Love'

'Pima Star'

'Suncoast Peppermint Kathy'

## MEDIUM

'Sugar and Spice'

'Satin and Lace'

'Concord'

'Moon Maiden'

## WORST

'Red Pinwheel'

The most trouble I've had with plants dropping their flowers have been with 'Sugar and Spice', 'Patsy Love' and especially, 'Moon Maiden'. All the others did better. I did have an unusual event occur. A 'Moon Maiden' sucker reverted to solid purple. It was a beautiful purple, and I was going to keep the plant until I noticed that it dropped its flowers almost immediately. In other words, it lost the chimera colors, but kept the blossom dropping! 'Moonbeam' is the gold standard. It is the ideal chimera. It almost always blooms true, does not drop flowers, and suckers like crazy by itself.

By the way, if anyone out there has the red pinwheel, a

semi-miniature, let me know immediately. I will make it worth your while!

Some chimeras revert during the warm months, and come back during normal temperatures. Many chimeras are not as disease resistant as regular plants, and this is the price you pay for the chimera's beauty.

I purchase most of my chimeras from Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses, and will say that they sell really true plants that are disease-free. They are on the top of the list of commercials that I enjoy dealing with.

## Sinningias

I started growing sinningias in the last few years. I do not have great luck at growing, but they are worth the effort. They are not as easy to grow as violets because of a lack of knowledge on my part. When the tubers went dormant, I made the mistake of over-watering them, causing rot every time.

They grow beautiful bell-shaped flowers that remind me of orchids, without the limitations of orchids. However, I have been running into a new problem. Some of the huge tubers (2 inch) do not grow, or stop growing. These tubers just sit there. If anyone out there has had this problem and knows what to do, contact me! What I have done is cut the sprouts if they show up, and restart them.

I found that you can easily grow new plants from leaves. Almost any leaf! Cut the leaf, and place in sphagnum, cover, and wait about two weeks. You will see a small tuber at that point, about the size of half a match head. Leave the leaf on the tiny tuber and replant in your normal potting mix, and keep slightly moist, but not soaking wet. Sinningias will rot much more easily than violets. When violets get root rot, it starts from the bottom, shows symptoms, and you at least have a chance of saving the plant. Sinningias are not as forgiving. However, if you forget to water, it goes dormant, and it is easier to bring back than a dead violet. The tiny tubers that start from a leaf usually never rot. The large ones, however, are much more sensitive.

What experts do if the plant is not growing well is to pull up the tuber, pull off about 1/3 to 1/2 of the roots, and repot in new soil with the top 20% of the tuber sticking out of the soil. They should fit in the pot with about 1/2 inch of soil around them. If they go dormant for some reason, do not over-water. You can make the soil slightly moist, but not much more. This is where it separates the men from the boys. Too little water, and they go dormant. Too much, and they rot. When I find the perfect situation, you'll be the first to know.

Sinningias are not as finicky as violets when it comes to pH. Use your normal weak fertilizer solution when watering them, and give them good drainage. As I learn more, I'll write about it.

# TRAILERS

Trailers may be grown by rooting leaves or by rooting crowns removed from other plants. I start mine in a 2 1/2" pot using my regular African violet soil. The little plantlets are ready to pot up when they have four to six leaves; I pinch the top out at this point. This will produce more crowns, or trails, which makes your form. Trailers are judged in part by their form.

After about three or four months, I repot to a 3" pot. Again, I pinch all crowns to same length except the middle three and I leave them a little longer. This also helps to produce a nice form. By this time, they should have bloomed.

Now is the time to ask several questions. Did the plant bloom true? Did all the crowns bloom? Is the foliage nice and green and does it hide all the stems? If the answer is yes to all questions, then you decide it will make a good show trailer. Show trailers are planned; they are not accidents.

After another three or four months or maybe even five, I repot the plants to a 4" pot. Again all crowns are pinched. The more times you pinch, the fuller and more even the shape

and form will be. After potting to a 4" pot, I decide in which show I am going to enter it. I like to wait another four or five months before entering it in a show. This gives the plant time to produce a nice full form, and during this time I keep it disbudded.

About eight or ten weeks before a show, depending on variety, I move it closer to the light and allow it to start putting on blossom stalks. If a bloom opens too early, pinch only the bloom off, not the entire bloom stem.

By show time, you should have a beautiful trailer with blooms covering the plant. During its entire life, the plant has received the same care as my other violets, such as fertilizer, number of hours of light, and foliar feeding. This method of growing trailers has been very successful for me. I hope it will be successful for you also.

*From The Dixie News*



## In Memory



### Ralph E. Breden

Breden, Ralph B., (Lt. Col. USAF, ret), a long time grower of African violets, passed away in October, 2001. A veteran of World War II with the Army Air Corps and the Korean Conflict, he is survived by his wife, Antoinette Breden of Redondo Beach, CA, and two daughters. Ralph retired from the Air Force in 1974 after thirty-two years. After being active in Orange County African Violet clubs, he founded the South Coast African Violet Club, an affiliate of the African Violet Society of America, and also served as President and Board Member for this organization. Ralph also served AVSA as Library Chairman and was a member of the Publications Committee for many years. His wisdom and sense of humor are missed by all who were fortunate to know him.

### Opal L. Nuyianes

Opal L. Nuyianes, Fairfax, VA, passed away in November, 2001. Opal was an active member of Old Dominion AVS of Northern Virginia and the Potomac

Council of AV Judges, holding offices in both organizations. An excellent grower, Opal never failed to share her experience and knowledge with others.

### Ruby O. Roloff

Ruby Roloff passed away in October, 2001, and is greatly missed by the members of Capital City AVS of Sacramento, CA. During her twenty-five year membership, Ruby served in almost all positions. She was President three times, a Judge, and also worked tirelessly as Show Chairman. Ruby was always helpful and enjoyed sharing her love of African violets.

### Lulu V. Crossett

The Violet Patch of South Florida is saddened by the passing of member Lulu Crossett, 102, resident of Broward County, FL. A member of AVSA, Mrs. Crossett attended AVSA Conventions with her granddaughter, who also shares her interest in violets.



## CALLING ALL AVSA MEMBERS - A PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS, A PRIZE FOR YOUR DEEDS!!

Nancy G. Hayes - *Chairperson*  
AVSA Membership and Promotion Committee  
9 Cobblestone Rd. • Bloomfield, CT 06002  
john.hayes@snet.net

Our African Violet Society lives and breathes for its members. We now need our members to live and breathe for us! The AVSA Membership and Promotion Committee announces a contest for the calendar year starting this month, January, 2002 through December 31st, 2002. In those twelve months, we will be seeking the five top affiliate and five top individual membership recruiters for AVSA.

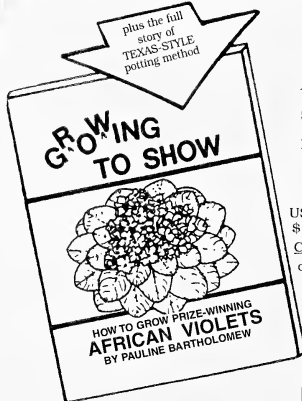
These affiliates and individuals must secure at least ten new members to be eligible for the prize, ONE YEAR FREE MEMBERSHIP! In addition, we will interview and highlight these winners in the AVM. Undoubtedly, their efforts will give ideas to others to help increase our membership.

These new memberships must be clearly marked as secured by a specific affiliate or individual. The winners will be notified by the AVSA Membership and Promotion Committee and announced in the AVM and at the Annual Convention in 2003. If there are any questions, you can contact me at the above address. One of my dreams is that we will have more than ten winners. Let's see how far-fetched that dream is!

## AV WORLD'S BEST SELLER

Thanks to "G-T-S" I just won my first Best in Show award! I tell everyone, "If you don't have this book, you aren't growing violets to their full potential." Mrs. M. L. Horne (Includes unique chapter on "Miniaturizing the Miniatures")

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Elizabeth Evans ..... 5.00

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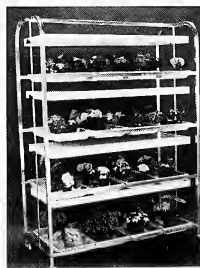
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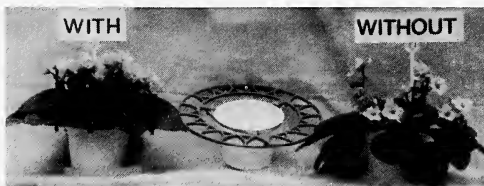
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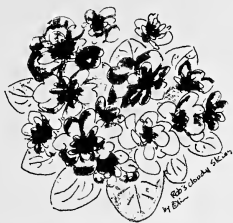
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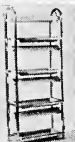
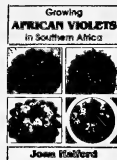
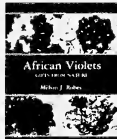
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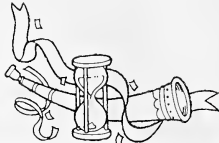
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# African Violet

*The magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.*

March • April 2002

Volume 55

Number 2



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**Please Note: Deadlines -** Articles and Columnists: Jan. issue - Oct. 1; Mar. issue - Dec. 1; May issue - Feb. 1; July issue - Apr. 1; Sept. issue - June 1; Nov. issue - Aug. 1.

**COMING EVENTS:** Send to Editor.

**Coming Events Deadlines:** - Jan. issue - Nov. 1; Mar. issue - Jan. 1; May issue - Mar. 1; July issue - May 1; Sept. issue - July 1; Nov. issue - Sept. 1.

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**QUESTION BOX:** Ralph Robinson, P. O. Box 9, Naples, NY 14512 and Dorothy Kosowsky, 712 Cunningham Dr., Whittier, CA 90601.

**MASTER VARIETY LIST:**

**MVL SUPPLEMENTS:** will be published in the AVM. Send any correction and/or description of new cultivars with hybridizer's name to Joe Bruns, 1220 Stratford Lane, Hanover Park, IL 60130.

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**OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE:** AVSA Secretary, Sue Ramser, 2413 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308.

**PLANT REGISTRATION:** Iris Keating, 149 Loretto Court, Claremont, CA 91711.

**RESEARCH:** Send suggested projects for scientific research or names of interested, qualified potential research personnel to Dr. Jeff Smith, 3014 W. Amherst Rd., Muncie, IN 47304.

**SHOW ENTRY TAGS:** 100 - \$7.00 postpaid. Order from AVSA Office.

**QUESTIONS ON HYBRIDIZING:** Dr. Jeff Smith, "In Search of New Violets" The Indiana Academy, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306. Web site: avsa.org

## Web Site: AVSA.org

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# African Violet

*The Magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.*

March • April

Volume 55

Number 2

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**Optimara Little Aztec**

Best Semiminiature

2001 AVSA National Show

Exhibited by: **Kathy Lahti**

Hybridized by: **Holtkamp**



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

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### OFFICERS:

**Jack Wilson**, President  
10007 Bent Tree Ln., Manassas, VA 20111  
*email:* cagmo@aol.com

**Janet Riemer**, 1st VP  
256 Pennington-Harbourton Rd.  
Pennington, NJ 08534-4007  
*email:* JTRiemer@aol.com

**Linda Owens**, 2nd VP  
1762 Stenwood Dr., Columbus, OH 43228  
*email:* Ldowens215@aol.com

**Joyce Stork**, 3rd VP  
2501 E. 23rd Ave. S, Fremont, NE 68025  
*email:* kents@tvsonline.net

**Sue Ramser**, Secretary  
2413 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308  
*email:* ramserwf@vfl.net

**Gary Gordon**, Treasurer  
120 Brinkwood Rd., Brookville, MD 20835  
*email:* ggordon120@aol.com

**Bill Foster**, Immediate Past President  
3610 Gray Drive, Mesquite, TX 75150  
*email:* bpfoster@airmail.net

### STAFF:

**Ruth Rumsey**, Editor  
2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702  
*email:* rumsey@earthlink.net

**Judith Carter**, Advertising Manager  
1825 W. Lincoln St., Broken Arrow, OK 74012  
*email:* AVMadmsn.com

**Barbara Pershing**, Publications  
8134 Buck Ridge, Cedar Falls, IA 50613  
*email:* barbara.pershing@uni.edu

**Floyd Lawson**, Best Varieties, Honor Roll  
1100 W. Huntington Dr., #21, Arcadia, CA 91007  
*email:* floydll@earthlink.net

**Anna Jean Landgren**, Tally Time  
20 Calvin Circle, Evanston, IL 60501  
*email:* geoaj@aol.com

Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.



# President's Message



Dear AVSA Members,

The "purple pages" issue is here. We're sorry it was delayed this year, but this year has been a different year for the world. We needed to fine tune some areas and negotiate additional items with the hotel, so we delayed an issue. But, that is all history now. You can now get your hotel reservations and convention registration completed for the AVSA national convention in our nation's capital, Washington, DC. For years, many people have asked for a convention in DC, and now it is about to happen.



Everyone will notice the hotel and meal costs are somewhat higher than recent past conventions. That is a price we pay when we go to a major metropolitan area and require the thousands of square footage for our show, sales, presentation, and meeting rooms. Still, our convention team has obtained very good rates for the area. I looked at the AAA TourBook for the area, and our rates are great. The rates for the walk-in person are \$199, \$204 for two people, and \$25 for each additional person. That puts our rate of \$135 for up to four people in the room in a better perspective. Many people I've talked with are planning on bringing family members and making it a vacation and convention week. Stay with a friend or two or three and the rooms become very affordable.

Meals are very high compared to what we have been accustomed. Hotels use the meals to help defray the costs of all the "free" space they allow us to use for our show. All this space would be rented to someone else if we were not using it. As you all know, nothing is free in business. The good thing about the meals is that they will be very tasty with good-sized helpings. I've eaten in their restaurants, and they are very good.

The tours are a bargain. They are priced at basically the actual costs for transportation since most entrance fees are free or very low. With so many things to do in the DC area, Anna Marie Mayes, our local tour coordinator, had a difficult time deciding what to select. If you want to see and do things not on the list, it is very easy to take public transportation such as the Metro or a bus. We will be very close to downtown DC and all the sights. All the museums and monuments are free, and transportation is very reasonable. So plan on staying some additional time after convention, and you and your family can easily enjoy the DC area on your own.

Those of you flying into the Washington area have three good choices: Baltimore/Washington Airport (BWI), Reagan-National Airport (DCA), and Dulles Airport (IAD). While Reagan-National is closer to the hotel, it is typically the most expensive. Baltimore/Washington is usually the cheapest, but like Dulles, would require you to take a bus or other transportation to the Reagan-National Airport and then a hotel shuttle or taxi to the hotel. But, if you were saving substantial dollars on the flight, that would be worth it. I've seen round-trips from the west coast for under \$200, so shop carefully. Check elsewhere in the magazine for additional information on transportation between the airports and hotel.

Our 605 international members from forty-one countries also have airfare bargains available at great savings. Many airlines offer direct flights from many overseas destinations so we are expecting a large number will attend this year's convention. Won't it be fun talking violets with violet friends from around the world?

The DC Convention Team has a great show planned for you. With 65% of the nation's population within a day's drive of DC, don't you miss out on what will be a huge show with lots and lots of attendees.

Get those AVSA convention registrations to the office. Let's break 500 attendees this year.

Sincerely,

John E. (Jack) Wilson  
AVSA President

# Editor's Notes



Ruth Rumsey • 2375 North Street • Beaumont, Texas 77702  
(409) 839-4725 • email [rrumsey@earthlink.net](mailto:rrumsey@earthlink.net)

Excitement is brewing for the AVSA Convention in Washington, D.C. There were a lot of mixed feelings immediately following September 11 and the other national security problems, but African violet growers are not to be denied!

I regret not running the Purple Pages until this issue, as I know it presses you all for time, but we'll find a way to work around that. Fill out your convention registration form in the purple pages, or photocopy the one on the white mailing cover and send it to the AVSA office right away. You may FAX it to (409) 839-4329.

Jenny and I are excited about seeing our violet friends, and are also pleased that **Valerie Phillips**, AVSA Member and the AVM Production Manager from Becker Printing, will be joining us again this year. She was a big help at the Saturday Luncheon Auction and at the AVSA Sales Table, and will be pleased to again answer all of your questions about the printing of the African Violet Magazine.

**Janice Davidson**, our Ways and Means Chairman, will offer several new items at her table this year. Look for new, limited edition watches, shirts, and beautiful violet note cards.

Your Coming Event notices begin on page 50 in this issue. So many clubs have spring shows that you won't have trouble finding one to attend in your area. Please take the time to study the format in which these notices are printed, and duplicate it when submitting your notice to the AVM. So many times I have to check with the club by phone for any information that is left off the notice. Please make sure the location, town and contact name are included.

I have been asked why some events appear in two issues of the AVM, and others in just the issue of the month(s) their show is scheduled. For space constraints, here is the policy:

If your show is **before the 15th of the issue date** (January, March, etc.), your announcement will appear in that issue and the previous issue. This is also true if your show is

outside of the US and it may take longer for the AVM to reach you. If your show is **after the 15th of the issue date**, it will appear in only that issue.

**Effective June 1, 2002, there will be a change in the procedure for Library Rentals. Reservations for slides and video tapes from the AVSA Library MUST BE MADE IN WRITING.** Please inform the person in your club responsible for slide reservations. Reservations may be emailed to [avsas@earthlink.net](mailto:avsas@earthlink.net), faxed to (409) 839-4329, or sent by postal service to: AVSA Library, 2375 North, Beaumont, TX 77707. After June 1, the office staff will no longer take reservations by phone.

Thanks to **Rich Follett** and **Laurie O'Meara**, two AVSA members who have recently contributed articles to the AVM. I hope their efforts will inspire more of you to put your ideas into words.

I also encourage hybridizers, commercial or amateur, to contribute slides to the AVM for publication in our Showcase sections. Please make sure that these slides are clear and focused, void of any flashy backgrounds or ribbons, picks, or name cards. Also, please note the size, name of plant and hybridizer on the slide frame.

I have been asked about our "AVSA Most Wanted" listing section of **Barbara Elkin's** Vintage Violets column. This is the appropriate issue to explain, as all of the current Most Wanted are listed here. This list is a compilation of the Vintage Violets our members are hunting for. Many are oldies that someone remembers having success with, or a plant that they considered special for another reason. Barbara has taken on this job for several years, connecting those searching with those who are growing the violets in question. If you have one of the Most Wanted, please take a moment to let Barbara know. You'll make another grower very happy.

See you in D.C.!

## ATTENTION: AFFILIATES

If you have not signed up for the  
low-cost affiliate insurance, please do so NOW.

**DO NOT DELAY**

Call the AVSA Office if you have questions.

1 (800) 770-2872



Jenny Daugereau • AVSA Office Administrative Coordinator

2375 North St.  
Beaumont, TX 77702  
email avsa@earthlink.net

(409) 839-4725  
(800) 770-2872

It is hard to believe that we have less than three months until our national convention in Washington, DC. Get your registration forms filled out and mailed to the AVSA office. You may email it to me <avsa@earthlink.net>, or FAX it (409-839-4329) to speed the process along. There will be so many things to see and do in our nation's capital; you will want to come early and stay late. Let's make this our best convention ever.

Computers in the AVSA office had to be replaced this year. Thanks to John Carter and Gary Gordon for all their help in finding the right computers. If you would like to help offset the cost, please make donations to the Booster Fund and earmark them for "new office computers." Your generosity is appreciated.

**Affiliate Clubs:** There is still time to sign up for liability insurance. Many malls, churches, and other meeting places now require you to have insurance to use their facilities. You may purchase this insurance from our office for \$2.50 per member. At this price, it is a real bargain. Mail your payment to the AVSA office, and we will get your club signed up.

Many clubs have recently elected, or will be electing, new officers. If you have a new President, notify the AVSA office.

We need your President's name and mailing address. Many times throughout the year we have mailings that go to your club President. If we have the wrong name in our computer, your club may miss important announcements. Help us keep your club's records current.

If you are moving or have moved, please get a change of address to the office immediately. The U.S. Post Office does not normally forward your magazine. To keep from missing an issue, you will need to get your new address to us at least three weeks before the next issue goes out. If you do not send your change of address, and your magazine is sent to your old address, AVSA will not be responsible for replacing it. Your cost to replace it will be \$3.75. Contact the AVSA Office right away about a change of address.

In this electronic age, everyone expects things to move much more quickly. In the AVSA Office, many of our orders are placed by phone or through the AVSA web site. **While this gets your order to us sooner, we MUST still have four to six weeks delivery time.** We will do our best to shorten this time, but cannot give you a guarantee. PLEASE PLACE YOUR ORDER EARLY.

## Additional 2002 Convention Awards

Sue Hoffmann, AVSA Awards Chairman • 801 N. Villier Court, Virginia Beach, VA 23452 • susan.hoffmann@juno.com 757-463-5383

### Amateur Horticulture or Undesignated Awards

#### \$200

Illinois AVS - Best 'Chicago Flair'

#### \$100

Cedar Valley Violet Club (IA)

Ohio State AVS

#### \$50

Lake Shore AVS (IL)

Lincoln AVS (NE)

#### \$30

Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council - Amateur Horticulture Sweepstakes

#### \$25

AV Council of Southern California

AVS of Philadelphia (PA)

AVS of Rochester (NY)

Ruth Bann

Doris and John Brownlie

Burbank AVS (CA)

Capital City AVS (CA)

Desert Sun AVS (AZ) - Best Standard Fantasy in memory of Hessel Leer

Desert Sun AVS (AZ) - Best Standard Lavender in memory of Barbara Wyckhoff

First AVS of Dallas (TX)

First Austin AVS (TX)

First Lakeland AVS (FL)

Ovella Hall - Best Other Gesneriad in memory of Elmer and Fannie Hall

Heart of Jacksonville AVS (FL)

Lakes Area Violet Growers (MN)

Anna Jean Landgren

Sharon A. Long

New York State AVS, Inc.

South Coast AVS (CA)

Tucson AVS (TX)

#### \$20

AVS of Morris County (NJ)

Lynnhaven AVS (VA)

Richard & Anne Nicholas (TX)

Joanne Schrimsher

Thousand Oaks AVS (CA)

#### \$15

Central Florida AVS

#### \$10

West Texas AVS-Midland/Odessa

Karyn Cichocki - Best Other Gesneriad

Karyn Cichocki - Best Saintpaulia Species

Karyn Cichocki

Meredith Hall

### Amateur Design

#### \$30

Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council - \$30 Amateur Design Sweepstakes

### Commercial Awards

Bill & Kathryn Paaue - \$15 Commercial Horticulture

### Other Awards

JoS Violets - \$40 gift certificate

Violet Venture - \$10 gift certificate

# Question Box



Ralph Robinson  
P.O. Box 9  
Naples, NY 14512  
email: [robsviolet@aol.com](mailto:robsviolet@aol.com)



Dorothy Kosowsky  
712 Cunningham Dr.  
Whittier, CA 90601  
email: [dot3joe@earthlink.net](mailto:dot3joe@earthlink.net)

The wonderful technology that was the norm on Star Trek types of productions was a delight. You could get instant answers to almost anything, no matter how intricate. That type of instrumentation would make this column a real breeze, having the complete background on the problem being presented would be a fail-safe for the reader and the writer.

When answering your questions, I always wonder if the plants have been repotted in the last six months to a year? What ratio is the fertilizer - full strength, very weak, or do they forget from time to time? Is the soil porous or clay-like? Is the house too hot, too cold, or are there drafts? In what kind of humidity is the plant being grown? Have they changed the light tubes within a week or was it four years ago?

I try to cover all the bases by saying "I can't see your plants", which seems like a cop-out, but I certainly don't want to make a statement that will cause someone to do damage to their collection. When offering an answer to a question, you hope they will have considered asking themselves questions about whether there is some special information the person they are writing to may need when formulating an answer.

This was a period when it seemed all the questions fell in the category of, "I really wish there was more information or I could ask them some questions", so, if I have guessed wrong on your question, please contact me again.

**QUESTION:** *I grow all of my plants in ceramic self watering type pots, where you fill the bottom container with the water. I fertilize every other week. The plants look fine but they have very few blooms. What can I do to promote more flowers. (A picture was enclosed.)*

**ANSWER:** With attractive containers it is very easy to forget that the plant has been in the original soil well after the maximum time that it would be a good growing medium for the violets. Soil replacement is always extremely important and perhaps more so with this type of container. The draw-

back to ceramic containers is a lack of control of how much fertilizer and nutrients that reach the roots. Gauging what is needed becomes just a guess. The permeation of the upper container by the fertilizer solution does not seem to be consistent at all times. It may be there are particles clogging the porous portion of the container. You can also have a severe build-up of fertilizer salts on the soil surface of the plant which are not being flushed away with this type of watering system. You didn't say whether you add fertilizer to the existing water in the reservoir or if you clean the unit each time you fertilize. Cleaning the unit completely each time should help, but first be sure the plants have new soil every six or eight months. Make sure the water in the reservoir does not have more fertilizer than is intended. If you start with 1/8th or 1/4th strength fertilizer solution and don't empty the water before adding more fertilizer, you could have an overly strong fertilizer mix due to evaporation.

**QUESTION:** *The advice to remove the lower part of the root ball when repotting has proved to be a disaster for me. I repotted several older African violets that were thriving and ended up with soft, glassy looking petioles. Your advice, to protect against insects from new plants, of removing all the soil seems far too drastic after my experience with cutting off part of the root ball and taking off some of the soil. I have not isolated any of my plants and wonder why you wouldn't just use a systemic insecticide against the pests and not treat the plants so drastically.*

**ANSWER:** First, when you cut off the root ball and repotted the violet, did you let the plant rest away from the light? Did you clean off the scabs formed by removal of leaves on the stalk so it could re-root where the leaves had been? Did you make sure the soil was snug against the stalk? Were the plants watered with a rooting stimulant and allowed to drain thoroughly? Did you think it might be a good idea to cover the plant with a plastic bag as it looked a bit wilted (some plants do wilt, but I would doubt that several would unless they were already in distress)? Actually, African vio-



lets are quite sturdy and most of the time when I re-pot, it is only necessary to put the plant in a darker than usual area for 24 to 48 hours.

The only exceptions are very light variegated plants which I put in a box which can be closed to keep out all light for a period of up to a week. This, in conjunction with as little touching of the foliage as is possible, will reduce or eliminate the tiny spots that appear on the leaves of very light variegates.

If the plant has had major surgery (when you remove many rows of leaves and all of the root system on a badly neglected plant) I put it in a plastic bag, return it to the light stand, (the bag gives the plant protection and humidity with no need for reduced light) and give it three weeks to re-root before removing the covering. The technique you describe for re-potting is fairly standard, and if you can find someone in your club to either watch as you do it or demonstrate it for you, that would be a great help in the future.

As to why I use such a ruthless treatment on new plants, (mainly these are starter plants and never know they didn't have TLC as they don't miss a beat growing) it's because I have had the unhappy experience of bringing home root mealy bugs on very healthy looking plants. Unfortunately, my whole collection was infected by the time I discovered the critters. First of all, a systemic is a drastic treatment. That is why 'organically grown' has become such a big BUZZ word in selling vegetables. I don't use systemic insecticides because I have my hands in the soil when I re-pot and when I check for how damp the plants are during either cold or dry weather. Most problems are best prevented, as when insecticides are necessary it's a major battle, lots of work, usually taking three weeks for good control.

**QUESTION:** *I'm a relatively new member and haven't seen anything in the magazine about controlling thrips, I just remember reading they were hard to eradicate. I'm using Insecticidal soap both under and top-sides, but the thrips return. I enjoy having my plants in full bloom for the holidays and would like any help you can give me.*

**ANSWER:** There are some areas where it is possible to have African violets in bloom year round. I don't happen to have that type house or live where thrips are not a constant problem, so I'm very experienced with this problem. I'm afraid your wish for full time flowering plants is not possible.

If you have tried to control by spraying and had no success, the chances of conditions being changed is only a dream. The one thing that will work is disbudding. However, for next years holidays, try keeping all plants disbudded for four months, then six weeks before Thanksgiving allow all of the plants to come into bloom, and disbud again after New Years to keep the thrips population at bay. Don't throw your plants away, just keep the blooms off and starve the thrips (Pollen is their primary food) that remain after spraying. They are very attracted to purple blooms and then move on to everything else on the light stand if not controlled. Give the plants four months of no blooms, then try two or three months with no bloom, and find which rest period gives you enough control of the thrips so you can enjoy your hobby.

**QUESTION:** *Seedlings, approximately nine months old which are grown under artificial light, have developed white mottling that looks like Clorox was spilled on the leaves. They have not had any water spilled on the leaves. I constant feed with Peters 12-36-14 at 1/2 tsp. to a gallon of water, watering when plants are dry to touch and bottom water only. The plants are in light trays in northern exposure windows and have very good air circulation.*

**ANSWER:** The amount of fertilizer appears to be quite high. I'm not sure this is causing the problem, but I use 1/4 to 1/8 tsp. to a gallon of water, top water, and do not use any fertilizer on the 4th rotation of a watering period. I have talked to growers that only use 1/16 tsp for their variegated and semi miniature or miniature plants. I'm sure cutting down on the amount of fertilizer would be a good idea in any event. When bottom watering, do you empty the saucer within an hour or so of watering? Every six weeks, it is a good idea to flush all of your plants with clear water at the sink. Use about a quart of clear water letting it run through the soil to clear out the salts that have built-up, especially since you bottom water. You also need to take care that the water is not cold when you water or when standing in the saucer, as that can cause leaf damage due to the cold water shocking the plant. Windows, especially northern, can be quite cold while the room is warm, so be sure the water is room temperature and the plant does not stand in the water more than one hour. Twenty minutes would be even better.

**Name of columnist replying is in bold print**

## Yellowing Leaves

It is normal for aged leaves to turn pale and die after a period of several months. However, if they are doing so prematurely, it is probably a lack of nitrogen in the soil. The soil would be too acidic for the plants to absorb the fertilizer or there may not be enough fertilizer, or no fertilizer. I give my soilless mix the proper amount of lime and feed plants 20-20-20 one-quarter strength fertilizer when they are young, if they are out of bloom early in the winter, when they are not growing much,

and when disbudding prior to show. Once a month I drench with clear water and apply anywhere from one teaspoon to one tablespoon of horticultural lime per gallon of water, depending upon their condition. Adult plants with variegated foliage should be fed with 5-50-17 fertilizer to enable them to keep their variegation.

From "Ye Bay Stater", publication of the Bay State AVS

# A Family Portrait



**Georgene Albrecht**  
101 Oak Heights Drive  
Oakdale, PA 15071

## *Streptocarpus* 'Jamboree'

*Streptocarpus* (strep-toe-CAR-pus) 'Jamboree' is a fabulous Jonathan Ford hybrid from 1996. The cross was *S.* 'Cranberry' x *S.* 'Snow Sparkle' which has produced some really unusual hybrids. Jamboree is really hard to illustrate because the top two lobes of the flower are mostly white and the three bottom ones are dark violet red edged in a feather white margin. All flowers are double with many tufts in the throat. No two flowers are alike. Foliage is extra thick, and the ribs are dark red reverse. This plant has been misidentified at times. This is the correct description in the Gesneriad Register for *Streptocarpus* published by AGGS in 1999. It is available from Pat Richards, 15105 S. Seminole Dr., Olathe, Kansas 66062-3004 for \$8 in USA only.

This cross has yielded such unusual flowers like *S.* 'Valentine' which is velvety wine red with a white throat having dark veins and white dots on all lobes. *S.* 'Wedding Day' is a rusty red with splotches of mauve and has white frilled edges. These plants must be very hardy because they have survived my inconsistent care for several years. If I would repot them more often, they would do much better.

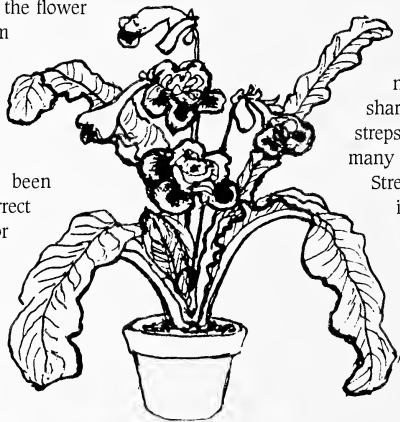
The fine, fibrous roots are close to the top of the soil so top watering is my preferred method. Most of the time, I use a diluted, about one-eighth strength, fertilizer. Many people think overwatering kills their streps, but I think they have too much fertilizer which burns those delicate, fibrous roots.

Repotting always makes most streps happy, provided the pot is not too large. Judge by the size of the root system and cut away about one third the soil ball to pot in nearly the same size pot. Never jump to a much larger pot.

One of the best growers in the 1970's was a California gentleman named Max Dekking. I would like to share some of his ideas about growing streps. He grew and hybridized streps for many years, and I have never seen better.

Streps like cooler temperatures than violets, ideally, between 60 to 65 degrees. Light requirements are like violets. If leaves reach up, they are searching for light. However, there are a few varieties that just naturally will reach no matter the light. They love the lower shelves of your light garden about 8 to 12 inches below the fluorescent tubes. The closer you can keep them to the tubes, the more economical.

Streps should never dry out as this causes brown leaf tips. If overwatered or overheated they will "wilt" because the crown and roots have probably rotted. If this happens, remove the plant from the soil, rinse it off, wrap damp whole sphagnum around the base, and place it in a small pot enclosed in a plastic bag. Take a leaf off, place it in water, and then root it as usual just to make sure you don't lose the variety. Keep the foliage relatively dry. It should start to get new roots soon. You can repot it in regular soil then. If you have lost a lot of roots, cut the foliage back because the plant can't use them.



Ideal humidity is between 45 to 50% with a gentle air circulation. Max used organic fertilizers like fish emulsion and seaweed extracts. Mine do fine with regular water soluble Peter's fertilizer. Since I last wrote this column, Peter's fertilizer formulas have changed the source of nitrogen. Try to find one that has ammoniacal nitrogen. This is easier on gesneriads than urea.

The worst pest to streps is the foliar mealybug. They hide in the base of the plants and under the leaf reverse. Examine your streps every week when you water. Safer's Insecticidal soap will break the white waxy coat and expose the tan colored bug. Isolate any infected plant. Hang a vapona strip near it and add diatomaceous earth to the top of the soil. If they persist, repot in fresh soil after you have dipped the entire plant in soapy water solution. Swish the plant, roots and all, then rinse thoroughly. Pot in fresh soil or wrap in whole sphagnum inserted into a small pot. At times, I wrap the entire plant in plastic wrap to hold humidity and let light enter.

Here is a list of symptoms *Streptocarpus* develop.

**GRADUAL DEFOLIATION:** Older leaves yellow and drop. This can be just a sign of age if the leaf has produced several bloom stalks. If the leaves are young, root rot or underwatering can cause this. If the leaves yellow from the bottom, chances are that they need fertilizer. No bloom is a sure sign that there is not enough light or fertilizer. Huge dark green leaves with no flowers indicate over fertilization with not enough light.

**RAPID DEFOLIATION:** Instant collapse can be heat stress with over watering, trauma from a complete change of growing conditions, or cold drafts combined with warm water. Water should be the same temperature as the air in the room. Warm water on streps is a disaster. Put down a leaf or take the newest growth and wrap in damp sphagnum as directed before.

**GROWTH BLACKENS:** Burns from overwatering with warm water and too much fertilize when the soil was too dry to accept food. This is especially easy to see on variegated strep leaves because the black is very noticeable on the white of the leaf

**SPOTTED FOLIAGE:** Watering with too cold or too warm water. In sunlight or drafts. Chemical spray will also cause spotting.

**FAILURE OF BUDS TO SET:** Low humidity and lack of phosphates combined with lack of light. A plant only blooms when it has optimum light.

**BUDS DROP:** Low humidity, high temperatures, over fertilization. As a general rule, do not fertilize a plant about to bloom with regular nitrogen fertilizer.

**FOLIAGE IS LIGHT GREEN:** Lack of nitrogen or the ability of the plant to take up nitrogen. Repot in fresh soil in case the pH is off and make sure there is enough light.

**STUNTED PLANTS:** Too much fertilizer, mildew, cold water. and drafts with overwatering. There is a virus among streptocarpus that we have read about in email groups. This seems to be isolated in Europe and we hope it doesn't come here.

**LEAF TIPS BROWN:** Too low humidity, chemical spray damage, pH of mix too high or low, air pollutants, unbalanced fertilizer, hard water, (occasionally water with one to two teaspoons of white vinegar per gallon if you are sure you need it).

Streps reproduce easily by seed, tip cuttings, divisions, stem cuttings or stemless cuttings. I have even grown tiny plants from the leafless rhizoid area. In nature they have dormant, dry spells and can rejuvenate themselves when the rain comes. If you take tip cuttings or stem cuttings, be aware that the plantlets come from the veins easily, not the rib. Many growers remove the midrib completely and insert the cut edges in medium. I have rooted them in water but they seem slower to enjoy the soil mix when transferred. Do anything you can to keep the leaf turgid so you don't lose it.

David Thompson sure grew some handsome streps for the conventions. I love Dale's *S. 'Texas Hot Chili'* and I also got *S. 'Paper Moon'* from Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses. It has a white flower with deep burgundy stripes in a yellow throat. Rob has Bristol's *'Party Girl'* that is an unusual deep blue with pink fantasy splashes. Nice.

If you are into gesneriads at all, you really need to belong to the American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society. Send \$20 for membership to Bob Clark, 118 Byron Avenue, Lawrence, MA 01841-4444 to receive "The Gloxinian" which is intense enjoyment of the rest of the gesneriad family. The Third Quarter issue in 1999 was devoted to *Streptocarpus* and it is absolutely a must-have. Perhaps Pat Richards has back issues for sale. I have had the pleasure of meeting Jeanne Katzenstein, Editor, and I must compliment her on the magazine and content. And I certainly can't mention her without giving my compliments to our AVM Editor, Ruth Rumsey, who constantly puts together a wonderful array of copy and photos from the violet world.

Judging a *Streptocarpus* isn't difficult. Knowing the variety can tell you how large or small the mature plant should be. There can be one or many growths in a reasonable pot size. Each growth should have at least one flower stem in bloom. Edges of the leaves can be cut to a natural curve if they have brown edges. Moss can be placed on the top of the soil if perlite is distracting. If the plant is wobbly in the pot, it is not well grown and no stakes or supports are to be used. Streps species may develop a change in the leaf surface. This abscission zone creates a clear line defining the change in color on the leaf and should never be considered a defect in culture. Enjoy your springtime.



# Thinking Small



**Pat Richards**

15105 S. Seminole Drive

Olathe, KS 66062-3004

email: *Patter257@aol.com*

Convention in Washington, D.C. is only two months away! This issue of the AVM contains all the information you need to make plans to attend. Hope to see you there! Now, let's continue with our discussion of growing the best plants possible, with a too-in-depth discussion of watering methods.

## **THE PRESENCE OF YOUR SHADOW**

A watched pot never boils, but an unwatched African violet cannot reach its full potential! If possible, your best plants need weekly, if not daily scrutiny. A couple of years ago, Linda Golubski asked me how much time I spent with my plants. At that time I was a stay-at-home mom with very young children who took naps. My response was "Oh, probably only an hour or so". She replied with astonishment that it was a luxury. At that time, I thought it was not a great amount and could not understand her incredulous reaction.

Several years and a full-time job later, with three very active children who can't yet drive, I'm beginning to understand Linda. Today I'm lucky if I can spend an hour every week, let alone every month, with my plants, and I can tell the difference. Instead of serenely happy and spoiled plants, I now have plants which slowly and miserably suffer. Instead of me slathering them with adoration and constantly addressing their needs, they must now wait on mine. It makes a ton of difference!

If it is your desire to grow the best plant possible, you must be able to devote all your attention to your plants, and with this, devote the best possible method of culture to them.

## **DOING WHAT COMES NATURALLY**

The best possible method of watering your plants is by hand, from the top. This may seem extremely labor intensive, and if so, please re-read the paragraphs above.

Watering by hand allows you to provide the exact amount of water the plant can take at any given time. It allows you to examine each plant carefully for suckers, possible transplanting, removal of forming flower buds, and to check for symmetry. It allows you to spot possible problems

long before they come to fruition.

Watering by hand is the most natural method of watering. It simulates rainfall, which has the effect of washing fertilizer salts out of the soil and away from sensitive plant roots. If done regularly, it maintains a certain amount of soil moisture, with brief but beneficial drying out periods (fungus gnats are not as prevalent in soils allowed to briefly dry out).

Watering by hand must be done carefully so as to avoid water in the crown of the plant and on the foliage. Mineral deposits can leave permanent reminders of careless watering. With minis and semis, this can be more challenging as the gaps between the petioles and exposed soil is much smaller than with standards.

Water temperature must also be carefully watched to ensure it is warm enough to avoid damage to the foliage. Room temperature (or slightly warmer) is usually good enough; never water with colder water. Hint: in winter place water jugs on heat registers (if you have them) for a slight warming effect.

The weight of soil/soil-less mix you use will affect the frequency of watering. For this reason it is recommended using a heavier mix with more vermiculite, peat and/or soil. Finally, be sure you pour any residual, unabsorbed water off. This water is loaded with fertilizer salts and does not benefit your plants.

## **AND NOW, THE PRACTICAL SIDE**

There are those of us who simply cannot "live by show plant alone", whose time is divided, and who still desire to grow a great plant without sacrifice. May I say some absolutely fantastic plants can be grown using wick watering, Texas-style, matting, etc.? Our battle is an uphill one, but it can be fought! In my opinion, the key is frequent observation, and not waiting until the reservoir runs dry to visit the plant room.

Wick watering is always a good alternative. A tip for show growers is to try to maintain even water throughout the root ball as this provides good, even growth resulting in

excellent symmetry and consistent leaf size. Superlative grower, Linda Bjorkman, from Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, would take a wick with several strands and draw the strands through the bottom hole of the pot, then all the way up and over the rim, distributing the strands equally. A rubber band would hold the strands in place while the plant was repotted, resulting in even distribution of wick and soil moisture. Linda's results were good enough to win her a Best in Show and several runner-ups at national conventions.

Checking and refilling reservoirs on a weekly basis allows you to observe the plants (it's the "shadow" thing). It also allows the water in the reservoir to be freshened, and for pH levels to remain more balanced.

#### A DIGRESSION

Steve Covolo from Chicago is a "top-shelf" grower. He shows a love and true understanding of plants in his disciplined and rigorous approach. Steve once suggested water has a memory. In other words, that it starts with certain properties and will attempt to return to those properties despite our efforts to change them. One such concept is with respect to water pH. A lot of communities have high pH levels, clearly above the desired 6.5 - 7.0 our violets thrive under, an example being here in Kansas City where our pH approaches 10.0 thanks to the limestone rock it travels through to get here. While chemical devices can be used to lower pH levels, minerals remain which will try to break chemical bonds, returning the water to high pH levels. This is one excellent reason to refill water reservoirs before they run out.

#### MORE PRACTICALITY

Matting is a wonderful means of watering. It provides extra humidity for your plants. It extends time between

waterings, which are done quickly and easily. It does have its drawbacks though, including: buildup of fertilizer salts and minerals in the matting material, and spread of common pests and diseases. For this reason, if you want to grow the ultimate show plant, matting material should be cleaned frequently, and your plants must be carefully patrolled for maintenance (that "shadow" thing again!).

#### CAKE, CALORIES, FISH

I'm currently experimenting with a "better way" to grow my semis and minis. Very simply, it's a modified "aquarium" approach (which is to grow small ones in an aquarium with glass panels covering the top to increase heat and humidity and ultimately, grow a better plant faster). I'm using bakery containers for flat sheet cakes. These have black bases and a clear, plastic lid. Matting is placed in the base and minis and semis are placed on the matting. So far, results are fantastic! Growth is exceptional, with large vibrant blooms, all with the advantage of watering maybe once every two weeks! Humidity is greatly increased in my rather dry (particularly in winter) growing area. The downside is reduced growing area (the container sides take up room and greatly limit the number of plants which can be grown in a given area) and honestly, the plants need more vertical space when blooming than the container affords. Furthermore, the plastic, while seemingly clear, reduces the amount of light getting through as shown by more open, upright growth of the foliage. Again, I'm experimenting, and will report future progress on this matter.

Until next time, consider ordering from our many reliable AVSA Commercial as many new introductions are out. Make plans to attend DC, and keep trying to find that "perfect" way for you to grow your minis and semis!

## Share Your Photos with the AVSA Web Site!

Please share your photos of those lovely violets in your collection or of violets from your affiliate shows. Why not submit them to AVSA for use on our Official African Violet web site?

Here are the submission procedures:

The file format of the photo should be either in JPEG or GIF format and will have .jpg or .gif after the name. The name should be the plant's name.

**Ribbons, plant name stakes, etc., should NOT be visible in the photo. Clean, uncluttered backgrounds are a requirement.** Draped backgrounds are desirable.

If not listed in the AVML or First Class, please

include the plant's size (mini, standard, etc.) and description. Follow the guidelines for description in the AVML. Include the hybridizer's name, and if registered, the registration number and date registered.

Email all photos to: Jim Owens at: [jimowens@columbus.rr.com](mailto:jimowens@columbus.rr.com).

Not only will you contribute to the love we all have for African violets, but you will share your images at the one Official site for African violet reference photos. These photos will be seen around the world and will help make our site more beautiful and a pleasure to visit.

# Tally Time 2001

Mrs. Anna Jean Landgren  
20 Calvin Circle • Evanston, Illinois

Tally Time is a summary of the varieties receiving the greatest number of total awards from the state and local shows during 2001. This year it is based on eighty-five reports, and I have divided them into six geographical areas.

Show chairs, please note the names of winning 2002 varieties should be reported on the "Tally Time Report" form included in your Standard Show Award packet. Please send the forms to Anna Jean Landgren at the above address. They must reach me by November 20th to be counted. I must send my completed report to the AVM by December 1.

## STANDARDS

Total Number of Awards	Number Best of Show	Number Second Best	Variety Hybridizer, Registration No.	Number of Collection Awards	Best Standard, Mini, SM, Trailer or Species
19	2	1	<b>Smooch Me</b> K. Stork #8776	12	4
16	3	0	<b>Picasso</b> M. Tremblay #6924	10	3
11	2	1	<b>Lela Marie</b> I. Lineberg #5668	6	2
10	0	2	<b>Harbor Blue</b> T. Weber #6174	7	1
10	0	0	<b>Ode to Beauty</b> Cox/B. Johnson #7677	10	0
10	1	2	<b>The Alps</b> Horikoshi/Sawara #7813	5	2

## SEMIMIINIATURES

22	3	0	<b>Ness' Crinkle Blue</b> D. Ness #8136	13	6
20	1	0	<b>Irish Flirt</b> S. Sorano #7577	15	4
19	1	2	<b>Rob's Fuddy Duddy</b> R. Robinson #7886	11	5
17	2	2	<b>Rob's Boogie Woogie</b> R. Robinson #8606	9	4
13	2	0	<b>Precious Pink</b> H. Pittman #6025	7	4

## MINIATURES

18	0	3	<b>Orchard's Bumble Magnet</b> R. Wilson #8479	4	11
7	0	0	<b>Optimara Rose Quartz</b> Holtkamp #6969	4	3

## TRAILERS

14	0	3	<b>Rob's Boolaroo</b> R. Robinson #8053	2	9
8	1	0	<b>Rob's Lilli Pilli</b> R. Robinson #8063	2	5



## SAINTPAULIA SPECIES

20	3	1	<i>Saintpaulia grandifolia</i>	1	15
9	0	0	<i>Saintpaulia ionantha</i> S 5	0	9

The following table shows the relation between the award winners by geographical areas.

Variety	Total Number of Awards	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
STANDARDS							
Smooch Me	19	1	12	1	1	2	2
Picasso	16	3	7	1	4	1	0
Lela Marie	11	3	5	0	1	1	1
Harbor Blue	10	0	3	6	1	0	0
Ode to Beauty	10	1	1	5	0	0	3
The Alps	10	0	2	3	3	2	0
SEMIMINIATURES							
Ness' Crinkle Blue	22	2	8	4	3	4	1
Irish Flirt	20	0	3	6	4	6	1
Rob's Fuddy Duddy	19	3	5	2	7	2	0
Rob's Boogie Woogie	17	1	8	4	0	4	0
Precious Pink	13	2	2	2	2	5	0
MINIATURES							
Orchard's Bumble Magnet	18	4	5	3	6	0	0
Optimara Rose Quartz	7	1	1	2	2	1	0
TRAILERS							
Rob's Boolaroo	14	1	3	4	1	2	3
Rob's Lilli Pilli	8	1	3	1	2	0	1
SAINTPAULIA SPECIES							
<i>Saintpaulia grandifolia</i>	20	6	4	5	2	2	1
<i>Saintpaulia ionantha</i>	10	1	3	3	2	1	0
NUMBER OF WINNERS							
	244	30	75	52	41	33	13
NUMBER OF SHOWS REPORTED							
	85	12	18	22	15	13	5

The states in each geographical area, and the number of Tally Time reports from each state are as follows: #I includes Arizona-1, California-10, and Colorado-1; #II - Illinois-1, Indiana-1, Iowa-1, Kansas-1, Minnesota-2, Missouri-5, Ohio-4, and Wisconsin-4; #III - Connecticut-6, New Jersey-7, New York-6, and Pennsylvania-3; #IV - Arkansas-1 and Texas-11; #V - Alabama-1, Florida-6, Georgia-1, Maryland-2, Tennessee-2, and Virginia-1; #VI - Alberta-1, Ontario-3, and Quebec-1. No Tally Time reports were sent from the states not listed.

Other popular varieties within an area were: #I - Frosty Spring - (8), Rob's Outer Orbit - (6), Magnolia - (5) and Ness' Red Express - (5); #II - Cielda - (5), Mindi Morn - (5), Optimara Little Ruby - (5) and Tiger - (5); #III - Mindi's Tears - (8), Windy Day - (8), Rob's Hallucination - (6) and Rhapsodie Mary - (5); #IV - Honey Blue Angel - (5); #V - Little Pro - (4) and *Saintpaulia intermedia* - (4); #VI - Aca's Pink Pet - (3).



# In Search of New Violets



**Dr. Jeff Smith**  
The Indiana Academy  
Ball State University  
Muncie, IN 47306  
*JSmith4@bsu.edu*

Late winter and spring can be ideal times of the year to pollinate plants and create your own hybrids. A few tips for pollination include the following:

1. Use pollen from a newly open flower, preferably a single or semi-double flower type. Full doubles rarely have viable pollen as the double mutation converts the stamens into petals.
2. The anthers should be firm and dry and the pollen should appear powdery. Wet or mushy anthers rarely have viable pollen and should not be used.
3. The stigma of the pistil becomes receptive several days after the flower opens. Look for a wet shiny appearance as an indicator that the stigma is ready for pollination. When the pollen is applied to the stigma, the pollen should visibly stick or adhere.
4. Pollinate several flowers on the same flower stalk. This should result in several seedpods, giving a better chance for the seed pods to survive to maturity.
5. High humidity often helps in getting seed pods to set. Try putting the seed parent inside a dome or plastic container to raise the humidity. Once the seedpods have set, you can gradually wean the plant back to its normal growing conditions.
6. Label each cross, indicating the pollen parent and the date that the cross was made.
7. Keep the parent plant free from bugs and mildew as the seedpods mature. The seedpods will take anywhere from four to eight months to fully mature.

**Q:** *What is the "three generations rule" I keep hearing about?*

**A:** The three generations rule applies to a test of genetic stability of a new seedling or cultivar. The original plant is considered the first generation. A leaf taken from the original plant

will produce babies that will be the second generation. Leaves taken from the second generation plants will produce the third generation plants. If the cultivar is genetically stable, all three generations should be alike when placed side by side. Plants that are genetically unstable will normally throw variations during this testing time. Cultivars should not be released to the public unless they can pass the three generation rule.

**Q:** *Can you give an example of a plant that illustrates the use of the three generation rule?*

**A:** One of the classic examples is the discovery of the leaf variegation pattern where the white or non-green areas show on the edges of the leaves. This pattern is sometimes called Tommie Lou variegation (in honor of the person who discovered the variegation). Until this time, most variegation patterns where random, unstable, and would not reproduce through the three generation rule. As such, these variegation types were only curiosities and could not be counted on to reproduce with any degree of stability. The Tommie Lou variegation type was reproduced through nine generations and still showed stability. Thus, this type of variegation easily passed the three generation rule and became very important in the hybridizing of new variegated cultivars.

**Q:** *Do you know of any examples of mutations that are currently being tested by the three generation rule?*

**A:** Yes, I recently was sent a variegated leaf mutation from a reader that is different from the three recognized stable types of leaf variegation. The original leaf was lightly streaked in random areas of white or non-green. This pattern is similar to the random type of variegation, and I didn't expect it to reproduce in the babies. To my surprise, the leaves have produced a



number of babies, all of which have similar patterns of variegated streaking. These babies would be the second generation. Once these babies are large enough, I plan on taking leaf cuttings to try for a third generation. If the random variegated streaking pattern holds for all three generations, we may possibly have a new type of leaf variation in African violets. I haven't seen the flowers on this mutation yet so I don't know what color or quality they are, but the possibility of a new stable variegation mutation is exciting.

**Q:** *One of my plants that normally has red backed leaves is now producing leaves with dark spots and patches of light green areas. Is this a disease or a pest?*

**A:** No, this is not a disease or a pest or any other problem with your growing conditions. What you have described is an example of "birth marks", a genetic instability that sometimes shows up in the red backed leaf cultivars. The gene for making the red pigment in the lower epidermis has mutated and is switching on and off. When the gene is "on" the red pigment is made. The leaves will look darker green because of the presence of the red pigment. When the gene is "off" no red pigment is made. The leaves will appear lighter green. The random switching of on/off produces the areas of light and dark green, or the "birth spots". You may notice a change in the color of flowers produced on these plants too. The gene for the red backing is linked to the flower color and when one mutates, you often get changes in the other. I have seen birth spots appear sometimes in the fantasy cultivars with red backed leaves. The fantasy pattern is often genetically unstable so it is not surprising that birth marks often appear in these cultivars.

There is no "cure" for birth marks. Once a plant shows the genetic instability, it may continue the pattern, or it may convert to solid leaves with or without the red backing. If the cultivar is one you wish to keep, try taking leaf cuttings from leaves without the birth marks. You may be able to get babies that have the red backing and are true to the original parent type. However, I have never known a birth marked leaf to pass the three generation rule, so reproducing babies from a birth marked leaf will likely be futile.

**Q:** *I have heard it said to choose the seed parent for the foliage and the pollen parent for the flowers. Is this a valid way to choose the parents of a cross?*

**A:** No, usually the foliage and flower traits are controlled by genes from both parents. What matters more is what dominant or recessive genes an individual plant carries, not its use as the seed or pollen source. The only foliage trait that appears to be heavily influenced by the seed or pollen parent is variegation. In most cases, the seed parent must be variegated in order to produce variegated offspring. In other situations, use a plant as either the seed parent or the pollen parent; it won't make a difference in the offspring.

**Q:** *Can I use a patented plant for making crosses?*

**A:** Yes, you can use a patented plant. The patent only covers asexual reproduction such as leaf cuttings, not the use of the parent in sexual crosses.

## Light and Water

You've brought home your first African violet. It is exceptionally beautiful, and you want to keep it alive, thriving and looking as good as it does now. What does it need?

Two of the basic requirements for the continuing health of an African violet are light and water.

**Light:** It is important to give your plant plenty of light. Although African violets are plants which come from shady, low-light areas in nature, that is still far brighter than some places in your house. To keep the plant healthy and in continuous bloom, place your plant where it will receive as much light as possible - in fact, the brightest place you can find just short of direct, all-day sun. Certainly, a little sun in the early morning (that coveted easterly window that all plants like) or sun during the day in winter is unlikely to cause a problem. However, the direct midday or afternoon sun in summer can easily burn the delicate leaves and flowers of your African violet and, in time, totally destroy it.

Since it is often not possible to find a position with these exact requirements, you may elect to use a light curtain to filter the light so that the plant is not damaged. Venetian blinds can be used to the same effect by tilting them so that there is plenty of light but little direct sun.

The suggestion that the light should be bright enough for you to read the telephone directory for ten hours of each day is a good one. It is an indication of just how bright the light should be, and also shows you that an hour or two of good light is not enough. Ten to twelve hours is what the plant really needs.

**Water:** The surest way to kill your African violet is to forget to water it. Although the leaves and stems of the plant are of a succulent quality, they do not appreciate long periods of total drought. They are also a little bit particular at the other end of the water scale, since they abhor a swamp and will not survive for long if the potting mix in which they are growing is constantly waterlogged. Still more, they will react badly if they are constantly see-sawing between both these conditions, quickly succumbing to root rot. Regular watering is the answer, so that the roots are constantly moist but not flooded. Wick watering is probably the ideal method because it is easy to set up and usually provides just the right amount.

From The African Violet, Publication of the  
AV Association of Australia, Inc.

# Some Notes on African Violet Trailers

by Ralph Robinson • Naples, FL

**Note:** This is the outline of a lecture that Rob first presented at the Mid-Atlantic A VS Convention Show, November, 1996.

**Select a good variety.** Look for varieties that:

- Branch freely with minimal pinching
- Produce 'runners' with horizontal (not vertical) growth
- Produce dense, not sparse, foliage growth - i.e. lots of leaves
- Avoid "semitrailing" varieties

What you want is a variety that will freely produce numerous runners, that will grow along the soil surface, rooting as it grows, and has densely-produced foliage with no spaces visible. These varieties have the best form and will grow best as a groundcover, since they will fill more horizontal space, more densely. Since each runner will produce bloom, more runners means greater quantity of bloom. Varieties that spread runners easily will also produce better distribution of bloom.

Get started by putting down a leaf or root a tip cutting in moist soil, keeping covered for three to four weeks until rooted. Upon uncovering, remove the center growth to encourage quick development of other runners. For good trailing varieties, this may be the only time that pinching is necessary.

**Potting into larger containers.** Shallow is best.

Repot when a trailer looks overgrown in its current pot. At this point, the runners will be about to crawl over the pot rim. With trailers, however, procrastination can be a virtue. A plant that has been allowed to become very overgrown and "weedy" will fill in a larger pot all the more quickly, since you'll have more long runners to work with.

Pot into shallow containers, no matter the diameter of the pot. From a starter plant in a 2" pot, go into a 3" tub pot, then into a 5" pan pot. Beyond this, shallow pots (depth less than 3") are hard to come by. We use 8" and 10" saucers, and drill holes into the bottom for drainage. Another solution is to cut a large standard pot down to 2-3" in depth - we use a hacksaw and then file away the rough edges.

When potting, always use a light, porous, soil. It will take time for runners to root and fill a large pot. A heavy, wet soil makes it more likely that roots (and runners) will rot before the additional soil is filled with roots. Also, lightly pack soil into the pot - you want a firm surface for the runners to crawl along. If the plant is too loosely potted, it will sink over time,

losing contact with the runners. You might also want to press, or pin, runners into the soil to promote rooting, which is more easily done into firm soil.

**Grooming.** To promote dense growth and good form.

Occasional "thinning out" of foliage is helpful. For dense foliage, the small, immature, runners (the tiny suckers appearing along existing runners) need a chance to develop - you want long runners growing from other long runners. For this to happen, you need to thin-out the foliage. You need to make growth less dense now, so that it will be more dense later. Thinning allows more light to reach the small, developing runners so that they can begin to mature. This will give you dense undergrowth, so that the plant won't show those ugly bare stems as it becomes older. Always remove immature, oversized, off-color, or damaged leaves. Don't be squeamish! Unlike other violets, trailers will quickly fill in any gaps that have momentarily been created.

A well shaped trailer with good form has a smooth, rounded appearance. If looked at in profile, it should have a smooth edge, without a jagged, spiked look - much like a just-trimmed hedge. To achieve this look, remove vertical growth and leaves competing for the same space. These are leaves that, because there isn't room enough for both of them, are pressed against each other, not allowing either one to lay flat. Since one leaf will occupy this space as well as two, removing the second allows the first to grow in a more natural, flat, position - remember that you want trailers to occupy horizontal space!

Good form also means that the plant is round (circular) in shape when viewed from above. Proper placement of runners is important to achieve this. Ideally, you would like runners to be of an even length and evenly distributed around the pot - this will give you an even distribution of foliage and bloom. If not, runners can be moved so that this is the case. This is most easily done when potting into a larger container. Simply move the runners an equal distance around the pot, and fill as much space as possible. Press runners into the soil surface. If they're stubborn, and don't want to stay where you've placed them, "pin" them down using U-shaped wire (like the end of a paper clip). For the pin to hold, the soil must be firm - you may also want to "barb" the ends of the pin.

Occasionally, a bare spot will appear where foliage is lacking. To fill in these areas, new growth needs to be encouraged there. If possible, move an existing runner, pinning if needed, to the bare area. Alternatively, or additionally, you

may want to pinch (remove) the tips of existing runners surrounding the bare area to promote more runners to grow there.

**Growing for show.** No secrets, but a few pointers.

Here's what judges look for. Form is worth 25 points. This has been discussed already. Condition (cultural perfection) is also worth 25 points. Basically, this is the result of good cultural habits - i.e. "tender loving care". This also means removing discolored or damaged leaves, spent blooms, having a clean plant and container, and the like. This also means no visible bare stems, "nubs" from incompletely removed leaves and blossom stems, etc. This is another reason we want thick, dense, foliage - it can cover up a multitude of problems. What the judges can't see, they can't deduct points for!

Quantity of bloom is worth another 25 points. Because good trailers will produce many runners (crowns), they have the potential for a tremendous quantity of bloom. Very simply, a plant with 30 crowns has the potential for 30 times the number of blooms of a single-crowned plant. Bloom should be evenly distributed about the plant, among the crowns.

Size and type, and color of blossom, are worth 15 and 10 points, respectively. These should be consistent with the variety description. Since a trailer in full bloom should have more than enough flowers, always remove any blossoms that are questionable in terms of color, size, or freshness. Again, judges can deduct for these flaws only if they are allowed to see them.

When selecting plants for show, choose a good variety and start with the healthiest plant exhibiting the best habits. Set aside those plants that most freely produce runners (you'll need a minimum of three crowns to exhibit a trailer), and produce those runners evenly around the pot. Some of these problems can be corrected later, but it's always best if they don't need to be.

Repot trailers 4-5 months prior to the date of the show. If the plant isn't ready for a larger container, repot into the same size container using fresh soil. Repot whether it needs it or not - by doing it now, you won't have to do so just prior to the show. It's better to risk damaging the plant four months before the show than a month prior to it, when mistakes are harder to correct. Be sure that the container is just large enough to be completely filled with foliage by the show date.

Upon repotting, severely prune foliage from the plant. Leaving only the very tips, remove all remaining foliage. What should be left are bare runners on (or pinned to) the soil surface, with only a few leaves on the end of each. The plant should look ugly at this point - this doesn't matter since it's not being judged now. By doing this, all new foliage will be allowed to grow, so that at show time none of the leaves will be more than a few months old. Growth will also be denser and more uniform after having been pruned in this manner (it will grow back more quickly than you think). Remember, ugly now means beautiful later!

Most good trailing varieties will bloom heavily with little or no encouragement, so that disbudding isn't necessary to promote or induce heavy bloom. However, disbudding will allow foliage to develop more quickly and completely. Again, ugly now and beautiful later. Disbudding also allows you to "time" the emergence of buds and bloom so that, on the show date, the plant has the maximum number of fresh blossoms. Begin disbudding immediately upon repotting and pruning, and continue to disbud until 6-8 weeks prior to the show. Allow more time under cooler, less time under warmer, conditions. The precise timing will depend a bit upon variety, but because trailers are such prolific bloomers by nature, precision here is less important than with other types of violets.

From *VioletsFun* Photo Journal

## Springtime in the Rockies

Springtime in the Rockies is the theme of the 35th Annual Convention & Show of the African Violet Society of Canada. Anyone who has ever seen the beauty and the majesty of the Canadian Rocky Mountains knows that Calgary is definitely a wonderful place to hold a convention. There are tours scheduled that will allow you to enjoy Banff National Park and Lake Louise. Step into the past where dinosaurs ruled the earth and see original reconstructed creatures from local archaeological digs as another tour lets you

experience the "Badlands of Alberta" at the world famous Tyrell Museum of Paleontology. Whether you see the sites locally, or just come for the convention, you're sure to be pleased with what's in store for you in Calgary. If you'd like to participate in the Canadian National Convention, and would like more details, please send an email to: [show2002@avsc.ca](mailto:show2002@avsc.ca) or call Winston J. Goretsky (403) 241-8300. The convention details should also be available at: <http://www.avsc.ca>

# Care of African Violets in Spring

by Beverly Downorth

Spring is a busy time for gardeners. When new life begins in dormant plants, flowers are plentiful and growth is rapid.

For the African violet enthusiast there are many important tasks to be done. It is a good time to sow seeds, put down leaves, pot up plantlets, and rejuvenate those 'necky' plants that have had to wait for the warmer weather.

Growing from seed is fairly simple. I often use the black base of a drink bottle with a wick through a hole in the bottom and a perlite/vermiculite mix. It is best to pour boiling water through this and sprinkle the seed on top when it has cooled a little. After draining, I enclose the container in a plastic zip-lock bag and place it in a warm position. Usually, the seedlings take about fourteen days to appear. I leave them in this situation for some weeks, occasionally adding a few drops of fertilizer solution, until four leaves appear. Then, I prick them out into seedling trays to grow. This is a fairly long process and will take many weeks, but if the seed is from your own hybrid cross it may be well worth the wait if something different and exciting appears.

Growing from a leaf cutting is quicker at this time of the year. Raising the baby plantlets from the leaf you have planted is most satisfying. Be careful to choose a good potting medium. Vermiculite or a vermiculite/perlite mix, I find to be the best. The African violet mix of peat, perlite and vermiculite is suitable as long as it is not kept too damp, causing rotting. Many types of containers can be used including small pots, polystyrene coffee cups with drainage holes, and margarine tubs for multiple planting.

Leaves can be rooted in water but must be planted as soon as the roots form. The most suitable leaf is one taken from about the third row from the center of a plant. Outside leaves may be too old and may not produce plantlets. Cut the leaf stem at an angle of about 45° and about one inch long.

Some may use a rooting powder on the cut or even a dusting of sulphur powder. I have not found either of these necessary. If the leaf stem is broken, with a sharp knife you can cut away the leaf blade each side of the central mid-rib to about half the length of the leaf. The central vein now becomes the new petiole and is planted in a similar manner. Only plant the leaf stem about 1/4 inch deep in your mix so that the baby plantlets will not be long and spindly. Label the plant with the date and variety name. Roots will form in three

to four weeks according to the temperature. Then, lightly fertilize and plantlets should appear in six to eight weeks. Pot up the plantlets into 'thumb' pots using a wick in each pot. Only pot up as many plants as you have space for.

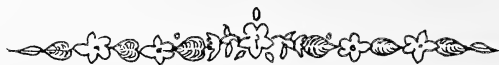
Spring is a good time to plant variegated leaves as the warmer conditions are more favorable for them. Some of the resulting babies may be totally white and must not be taken off the 'mother' leaf until there is enough chlorophyll in the leaves or they will not survive.

Side shoots or suckers root quickly in warmer conditions and can be taken off now and planted and will grow into new plants. I prefer the clear muffin containers with lids to raise side shoots. Place some potting mix into each muffin mold, and then place some vermiculite in an indent in the center of each. Moisten and press the side shoot gently into each, and close the lid and place in a warm, well-lit area. In a short time, roots will have formed, and they can be planted up in the normal way. Side shoots are one of the few ways to reproduce a chimera, and fantasies are best grown from a side shoot.

Now is the ideal time to repot mature African violets and do some major grooming if a 'neck' has developed. Turn the plant out of the pot, remove any old or marked leaves and all flower stems and stubs. The 'neck' area, which is callused from the removal of leaves, can be gently scraped back to fresh green tissue. Shake off much of the old potting mix and trim the roots a little. It can now be repotted into a clean pot with the lowest of the leaves level with the rim. Wick the pot and center the plant in the pot with a little mix under the roots and fill in with more potting mix. Water with tepid water and place on its watering system in good light. Do not fertilize for three or four weeks until some roots have developed. The plant will now be ready to start growing again and produce more beautiful flowers.

Trailers can be groomed now and any long leafless stems removed. The crowns from these can be planted as cuttings to form new plants. Other crowns can have their centers pinched out to promote bushy growth.

From *The African Violet*, publication of the  
AV Association of Australia, Inc.



# Preparing To Show Your African Violets

by Gary R. Beck • San Francisco CA

Take 3"x5" white sheets of paper, lay them over a leaf in the outer row of question. Keep going around until the symmetry looks really good. Never leave a smaller leaf below a larger one. Take off any immature leaves. When you feel the circle looks the best, then carefully go in and snip off the covered leaves with your fingertips. This way, if you change your mind, you just remove the paper, not the leaf! If you have a slightly damaged leaf whose removal will ruin the symmetry, leave it on and take the deduction.

Take a paint brush with soft camel hair or such and slowly brush each leaf, starting at the crown, brushing to the outside. Keep working down and around, so all debris ends up on the outermost leaves, then brush off plant.

If you have a white spot from fertilizer or transpiration, take a broken petiole and rub the cut end onto the spot. Reapply after dry, and you should get most of it off.

Look inside for any suckers, anything showing leaves in there, and take out. Use a tapered, sharp instrument. Some have a tool called a sucker plucker.

Use your brush to go inside and dust off any soil or perlite that is sitting on any petiole, even if hidden from view. Have no soil piled up around the neck. This is not the way to hide a neck - repotting is.

For a standard plant at maturity, you should have twenty to twenty-five flowers open, including the ones which will be open the day of judging. A small standard plant eight to ten inches in diameter with ten to fifteen blossoms could receive the full amount of points under quantity of bloom. The larger the diameter of the plant, the more open, fresh flowers you will need. But do not leave a pretty plant at home just because it may be a bit low in flower count. Take your chances. One never knows.

With tiny scissors, take off any flower that is wilting or

showing browning, even on the edge. Repeat this on the day you take them in for judging. After they have been in placement, go through once again, taking all of your tools with you. Clean and remove any flagging flowers. Gently move the flower stalks around to make a circle or halo if possible, but do not use force and break one.

For trailers, shift the branches so that you have growth and flowering all around, as in a circle. If you only have two branches, do not enter the plant, for ten points will be deducted right away. Try to have flowers on the three main branches. Go inside and remove any dead or yellow leaves. Clip leaves which are hiding flowers beneath them.

For minis and semis, you will need fewer flowers. Eight is plenty on a small plant. Again, try to move the stems so that the flowers are evenly dispersed.

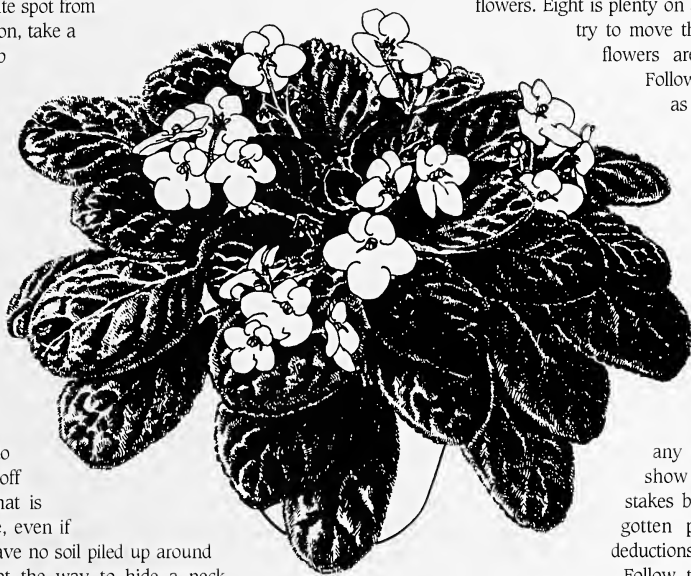
Follow the same guidelines as to grooming foliage, flower removal and trimming for better symmetry.

After show placement, move the plant and the foliage around so that it looks best from the front. You would be surprised what you can hide. Remove any support rings at the show and any growing stakes beforehand. Each forgotten pick counts toward deductions.

Follow the directions of the schedule as to covering the pots or slip-potting.

Have extra pots of the proper color and size or foil on hand, if needed.

Pack them loosely in large cardboard boxes. Use crumpled newspaper or gift tissue to make rings, so that the plant nestles in and will not shift whatsoever during transportation. Carefully cover, if necessary, and make sure that the flowers will not be crushed by another box on top.



# WE NEED JUDGES

by Joan Halford • South Africa

The need to put together a S.A. Judges Handbook, came after much deliberation. It took months and months. My enthusiasm to do the job ran high, then there was a big hiccup, but finally the spirit moved me to complete what was already a dire necessity. With very little computer knowledge, but with the valuable assistance of your AVSA Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors and Judges, our South African version is now in the hands of fifteen students, with the objective of them doing their first Students Examination in July 2002.

Knowing full well, when recruiting students from the various African Violet Clubs, around South Africa, that they would feel wary of starting out on a journey of learning, my enthusiasm gave them food for thought, or so I would like to believe.

Where are we going as members of our various clubs, as growers of beautiful specimens, if we have no judges to judge our shows? We are not as fortunate as you are in the United States of America. You have plenty of judges, hundreds of clubs, and can call upon qualified judges in almost any area where your shows are to be held.

We are hundreds of kilometers apart, our airfares are very expensive, and we have not got hundreds of members.

When I got enthusiastic about studying, I did not have all the encumbrances that the youth have in this day and age. Did I have more time on my hands? I remember only too clearly staying up late, when the family were asleep, learning the spellings of gesneriads and species! Also, I lost my way on a highway trip one day, I was so busy concentrating on spelling!

To find time in these busy days of earning a living, raising children, to keep abreast of the cost of living, the younger enthusiast here is hard pressed to find that elusive commodity called "time to spare". It is not easy. I know that all too well.

Anyway, I have devised a plan to encourage our students

to study. Maybe teachers will be interested. For study purposes, I have divided our S.A. Handbook into three sections.

Section 1. Students study - to be completed by December 31, 2001

Section 2. Students study - to be completed by March 31, 2002

Section 3. Students study - to be completed by June 30, 2002.

This allows students to concentrate on each section for about three months.

Before the start of each Section, I make up an examination paper of thirty or more questions on the Section that is being studied, and post each student these questions.

At home and in their own time, they can find, fill in, and learn the answers. If there is a problem or something they don't understand, they know they can contact me. They have been asked to file these question papers for future studying and reference. Each batch of questions has a cover letter, encouraging them to study, trying to give each student a feeling of confidence. Talking of confidence, in conclusion, let me tell you what happened to me, when I flew over to attend the AVSA Convention and do my first Students Examination.

As I was entering the examination room, a fellow student came up beside me, and said, "Are you doing this examination for the first time?"

"Yes", I replied.

"Well, don't expect to pass first time, as I have done this examination six times and have not got through yet!"

Wow! I was shaken, as you can well imagine!

Now, what I am looking for here are students who give of their best, and study as much as they can so that they can one day judge with courage, confidence, and kindness.

I am sure that we will succeed, but I am crossing my fingers, too.

## AVSA Building Maintenance Fund

Donations received October - November 2001

Mary Walbrick • 5235 Kingston Drive • Wichita Falls, TX 76310-3029

E-mail: MWalbrick@aol.com • Fax: 775-243-0836

Corpus Christi AVS, Corpus Christi, TX ..... \$20.00  
Hudson Highlands AVS, Fishkill, NY ..... 75.00  
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Eloise Thompson, Blacksburg, VA ..... 5.00

**TOTAL ..... \$233.00**

# “And the winners are ...”



**Mary Corondan**  
7205 Dillon Court  
Plano, TX 75024

**“AVS OF PHILADELPHIA, PA – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ode to Beauty, Angel Frost, Optimara Modesty; Best Standard: Windy Day; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Betsy Branson**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Marion's Enchanted Trail, Rob's Lilli Pilli, Rob's Humpty Doo; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Best Trailer: Marion's Enchanted Trail; Best Gesneriad: *xSmithicodonia* 'Behavin', **Marianne Gershon**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis purpurea*; Best Design, **Judith Smith**. Design Sweepstakes, **Martha Heil**.

**AVS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, CA – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Tiger, Marshlands, Anna Kreeck; Best Standard: Apache Wonder; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia hirsuta*, **Leonard Re**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Definitely Darryl, Ethel Twiford, Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best in Show/Best Miniature: Petite Jewel; Best Semiminiature: Definitely Darryl; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ann Wang**. Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo, **Gini McCanne**. Best Design: Design Sweepstakes, **Ruth Beck**.

**CEDAR VALLEY AVC, IA – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Molokai, Rebel's Centennial Star, Silent Prayer; Best in Show/Best Standard: Rebel's Centennial Star, **Nancy Price**. Best Semiminiature: White Dew; Best Miniature: Rob's Penny Ante; Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Catherine Thompson**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula*, **Barbara Pershing**. Best Design: Design Sweepstakes, **Jan Tyler-Blanchard**.

**GEORGIA AV JUDGES' SOCIETY, GA – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Mindi Brooke, Pink Cameo, Favorite Child; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Shutter Bug, Rob's Dust Storm, Precious Pink; Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Strawberry Patch', **Lois Duvall**. Best Design, **Beverly Moffatt**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Janice Norton**.

**LONE STAR AV COUNCIL, TX – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Picasso, Party Print, Barbara Ann; Best in Show/Best Standard: Abilene, **Martha Turner**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fuddy Duddy, Ness' Crinkle Blue, Rob's Whodunit, **Richard Nicholas**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Red Bandito, Optimara Little Ottawa, Peppy Blue, **Hortense Pittman**. Best Semiminiature: Honey Blue Ace, **Ann Nicholas**. Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet; Best Trailer: Kissaway Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ken Froboese**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Red Coat Doublet'; Best Design, **Dea Johnson**. Design Sweepstakes, **Ruth Goeke**.

**MISSOURI VALLEY AV COUNCIL, MO – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Chinook Wind, Smooch Me, Phantom Flash, **Kent Stork**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Harbor Blue, Smooch Me, Okie Easter Bunny; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Argyle Socks, Ness' 'Sno Fun, Ness' Satin Rose; Best in Show/Best Standard: Picasso; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Brown Flair'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Shannon Ahlman**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Cool Blue, Ness' Crinkle Blue, Pat Champagne; Best Miniature: Petite Blarney, **Judith Carter**. Best Design: Design Sweepstakes, **Fran Russom**. Best Semiminiature: Rob's Fuddy Duddy, **Wilma Wolverten**. Best Trailer: Ramblin' Lassie, **Mary Hill**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula*, **Barbara Pershing**.

**NASA AREA AVS, TX – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Red Lantern, Apache Rainmaker, Melodie Kimi; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Pink Dove, Orchard's Bumble Magnet, Cherry Glo; Best Standard: Melodie Kimi; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Dust Storm; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **John Nabers**. Best in Show/Best Trailer: Rob's Lilli Pilli; Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula* var. *kizarae*; Best Design: Design Sweepstakes, **Joyce Stenger**.

**NEW YORK STATE AVS, NY – Winners:** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fuddy Duddy, Rob's Heat Wave, Rob's Boogie Woogie; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Fuddy Duddy; Best Miniature: Rob's Doohickey; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ralph Robinson**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Shadow Magic, Rob's Boogie Woogie, Rob's Gray Ghost; Best Trailer: Honeysuckle Rose; Design Sweepstakes, **Paul Kroll**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Satin Wine; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Party Girl', **Olive Ma Robinson**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia* #237, **Bill Price**. Best Design, **Penny Wenzel**.

**NUTMEG STATE AVS, CT – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Heavenly Notes, Wrangler's Canyon Echoes, Red Ferrari; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Antique Rose, Rob's Blue Light, Rob's Heat Wave; Best in Show/Best Standard: Heavenly Notes; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Heat Wave; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Moonstone, **Ann Butler**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Victorian Velvet, Halo's Aglitter, Midnight Tease, **Charlene Boyce**. Best Trailer: Ramblin' Stardust, **Nancy Gilson**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* hybrid; Best Design: Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Edna Rourke**.

**THOUSAND OAKS AVS, CA – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Outrage, Lela Marie, Ness' Coral Sunset; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Teen Thunder, Snuggles, Rob's Boogie Woogie; Best in Show/Best Standard: Lela Marie; Best Semiminiature: Teen Thunder; Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet; Best Trailer: Ciredla; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Carroll Gealy**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Orchard's Wonder Twin, Pink Dove, Petite Jewel, **Ann Wang**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Pink Panther', **Georgetta Brickey**. Best Design, **Barbara Burde**. Design Sweepstakes, **Virginia Ellis**.

**TRI-STATE AV COUNCIL, NJ – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Mindi Brooke, Powwow, The Alps; Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*, **Jill Fischer**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Abigail Adams, Ness' Snow Clouds, Royal Flair, **Dale Jasaitis**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Magic Blue, Rob's Denim Demon, Wee Be; Best Miniature: Mac's Pink Petticoat, **George McDonald**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Precious Pink, Rob's Fuddy Duddy, Rob's Jee Jim; Best in Show/Best Standard: Rhapsodie Mary; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Jee Jim; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ron Ennis**. Best Trailer: Rob's Gundaroo, **Joseph Palagonia**. Best Gesneriad: *Chirita longwangensis*, **Edward Bradford**. Best Design: Design Sweepstakes, **Karyn Chichowski**.

**VOLUNTEER STATE AV COUNCIL, TN – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Powwow, Picasso, Rebel's Valiant; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Whodunit, Rob's Whoa Nellie, Rob's Mad Cat; Best in Show/Best Standard: Apache Diamond; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Whodunit; Best Gesneriad: *Petrocosmea duckwuxii*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Danny Tidwell**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Powwow, Vintage Wine, Aca's Coral Beauty; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Satin Rose, Rob's Fuddy Duddy, Ness' 'Sno Fun; Best Miniature: Aca's Pink Pet, Best Trailer: Pixie Blue; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*, **Geneva Stagg**. Best Design: Design Sweepstakes, **Iona Pair**.

**WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF AV CLUBS – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: The Alps, Vintage Wine, Smooch Me; Best Standard: City Lights; Best Design: Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Arlene Garvens**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Outer Orbit, Teen Sweetheart, Kid Karla; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Outer Orbit; Best Trailer: Sunrise Waltz, **Nancy Braun**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Orchard's Bumble Magnet, Planet Kid, Rob's June Bug, **Betty Schriber**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Merry Christmas', **Ruth Carl**.



**Kent and Joyce Stork**  
2501 E. 23rd Ave. S.  
Fremont NE 68025  
kents@tvsonline.net

## Starting Violets from Leaves

If you have never started a violet from a leaf cutting, this may be the perfect time. It's spring in the northern hemisphere, and for whatever reason, it is often the easiest time of year to get leaves to produce baby plants.

While you can use a leaf from a violet you already have, the real fun of this hobby is asking a friend to share a leaf of an attractive variety that you don't have. It is also a good time of year to find a violet show where leaf cuttings are being sold. You'll find that you can increase your collection without spending much money and have a lot of fun too.

### WHAT VIOLETS CAN BE USED?

Most violets will come true from leaf cuttings. This means that the plantlets that grow from the leaf cutting will produce flowers and leaves that will be the same as the violet from which the leaf was taken. They will, in fact, be clones of the parent.

Some violets will not come true. Chimeras, which have a characteristic stripe of color down the center of each petal lobe, will rarely produce offspring with the same color pattern. Chimeras have a unique genetic structure that can only be propagated through sidehoots or suckers.

Some violets have unstable genetic structure. Often, fantasies (violets that have speckles or blotches) or multi-color violets will produce a percentage of offspring that are not true to the parent. Some of the offspring may instead have solid-color flowers.

Some violet hybrids are legally protected by copyright laws. These violets will usually be sold with a plastic stake that identifies the copyright restrictions on that hybrid. Many

of these are violets that are sold by mass marketers, such as grocery and home stores. It is not legal to propagate leaf cuttings of these hybrids, except to replace the original plant (usually because of a bug or health problem).

### GETTING THE BEST RESULTS

The most important rule for success is to use only very healthy, mature (but not old) leaves. Very mature leaves will be more likely to rot in the first few months of the process. This is a stressful procedure for the leaves, and only vigorous leaves will give good results.

If the parent plant has variegated leaves, choose leaves that are mostly green. The variegation is a genetic trait which will be passed to the offspring regardless, and heavily variegated leaves are far more likely to rot before any plantlets appear.

The second most important rule is to be patient. It will take about a month for a healthy leaf to produce some roots. Once that is done, the leaf will begin to produce tiny plants at the base of the cut stem. It takes a month or so for those plants to grow to the surface of the soil, and several additional months for the plants to reach a large enough size to be separated. If the leaf is older, variegated, or stressed, it may take longer yet.

The third most important rule is to use a process that works well in your environment. This may take a bit of experimentation. Every grower seems to have a different trick that works well for them. If you have poor results using one method, try another.

The fourth most important rule is to keep the name of the



parent plant with the leaf. Violet hobbyists value the name of their plants. Down the road, an unnamed violet has little value to true collectors and cannot be exhibited in shows.

### **WHY DOES IT WORK?**

Each cut cell of plant tissue is inclined to produce offspring. Usually, only one plant will grow from each cut cell when traditional methods of propagating are used. The injury to the cell triggers nature's "survival of the species" reaction. When plant tissue is threatened, the plant uses any method available to guarantee that it does not die. This effort to survive is evident during many phases of the plant's growth, but especially evident when a leaf is cut away from the parent plant for propagation.

Violet babies can occur naturally in some less predictable places. Occasionally, growers will find a tiny plant forming on a crack in a leaf that is attached to the plant, or at the very edge of a leaf that had a slight injury.

### **THE WATER METHOD OF STARTING LEAVES**

The traditional way of propagating violet leaves is to place the stem into water until roots begin to grow. In most cases, it is wise to move the leaf into potting mix once the roots have begun to form and allow the babies to grow in the mix. However, some growers prefer to allow the plantlet to develop while the stem remains in water.

Using this method, select a healthy leaf and remove it from the plant by moving it from side to side until it pulls free. Avoid pinching or bruising the leaf as this may lead to rotting.

Make an angled cut across the bottom of the leaf stem, about two inches from where the stem meets the leaf. It is best to do this so that the angle of the cut section of the stem is facing the same direction as the hairy surface of the leaf. This positions the future plantlets to grow straight up and in front of the leaf since the leaf will be placed leaning back slightly (so the top of the leaf can continue to use light and produce energy). If you wish to produce an extra large crop of babies, slicing up the stem about one fourth inch (so that the base of the stem is split) may achieve that goal.

Choosing the container of water is one of the most discussed elements of the water method of starting leaves. Whatever container is used must hold the leaf safely above while the stem extends down into a water source. One gardening expert recommends that a dark, long-necked beer bottle filled with water works well for this. The darkness inside the bottle is good for developing roots and prevents algae growth. Many choose a juice glass filled with water and covered with plastic wrap, foil, or waxed paper (often secured with a rubber band). A hole is poked in the center of the cover so that the stem can be inserted through to the water below. Be sure to label the leaf with its hybrid name.

The water in the container should be relatively pure without softening agents or fertilizer. If water quality is an issue in your area, it might be wise to use bottled water. Check the water occasionally to be sure that it is still clear, and not

clouded by bacteria or algae. If necessary, change the water.

Watch the bottom of the stem for the development of tiny roots which will be slightly thick and white. We would recommend that as soon as the roots are one-fourth inch long, you remove the leaf from the water container and move it to a small pot of very loose potting mix that contains a high percentage of perlite or vermiculite. Water it in, and then set it in a bright location. The leaf may be covered with a plastic bag or placed inside a covered container (more on that later) while the babies begin to develop and grow.

### **THE SOIL METHOD**

In the soil method, leaves are placed directly into the potting medium and allowed to stay there until the babies are separated. It requires less effort, once the initial process is done.

Again, remove the leaf from the plant, avoiding any bruising. Make the same angled cut as before, leaving a stem that is one to two inches in length. As an alternative, the stem can be removed and the bottom fourth of the leaf cut away in a wedge shape.

Prepare a small pot with loose potting mix, again using a porous mix with a high percentage of vermiculite and/or perlite, and moisten it thoroughly. Insert the leaf, leaning slightly backward so that the hairy surface of the leaf is facing up. For best results, do not set the leaf into the soil very deeply, no more than an inch. The tiny plants must grow this distance to reach light, and they will be stronger if the distance is short. If you are opting to use the leaf with no stem, the cut edge should be set into the soil just enough to support the leaf upright. Do not pack the soil down around the leaf!

Next, place the potted leaf into a clear plastic bag or container. We find that zippered plastic bags work well for this. Close it tightly. If using the bag, we find that blowing into the bag to puff it up works well. The added carbon dioxide in exhaled breath is good for plant growth, and the sides of the bag will be in less contact with the leaf. This step may be omitted successfully in areas that already have high natural humidity (50% to 60%) and warm temperatures. Be sure the leaf is labeled with its hybrid name.

Place the packaged leaf into a bright location out of direct sunlight. It will not need additional water so long as droplets of water are visible inside the package. If the leaf has not been packaged, it will need to be watered regularly. There will be no need to move the leaf or change conditions until the babies are large enough to be separated from the parent leaf.

### **WHAT ABOUT ROOTING HORMONES?**

We personally find that it is not necessary to treat violet leaves with rooting hormone before putting them down. Following the package directions may result in a glob of the hormone on the stem. This excessive amount is more likely to burn away the new roots, and it may take longer to get results. If you wish to use it, dip a small paint brush into the powder and lightly brush an inconspicuous amount onto the cut edge of the leaf.

## SEPARATING THE CLUMP

After a period of months, there should be a clump of small plants growing at the base of the leaf. While it is possible to transplant even tiny plants, it is generally best to allow the plants to grow until the leaves are at least the size of a dime before separating the clump. It will be easier for a novice to handle larger plantlets and easier to solve the puzzle of where the individual plants are among the tangled leaves. Some leaf cuttings may produce only one or two plantlets, while others may produce a mass of fifteen or more. Murphy's Law seems to dictate that when you desire more plants, fewer plants will be produced.

Begin by slipping the entire clump and soil ball out of the pot and laying it sideways on a work surface. Gently begin working away the potting mix so that the stem of the parent leaf is exposed. Sort the small plants apart from one another. This is challenging to the beginner! The plants are reasonably sturdy, so one can be fairly courageous about pulling them apart. A few torn roots will not impede their later growth. It may help to look for a distinctive neck that connects the rosette of leaves to the root system of each plantlet.

There are two common mistakes made at this point. Some will believe that each tiny leaf is a plant and literally pull the plantlet apart. This is a fatal error. The other mistake is to fail to separate the plantlets adequately, allowing two or more to be potted together as a single plant. This mistake can be corrected later, when it becomes apparent that there are two crowns competing for space.

Next, prepare the pots into which the little plants will go. Since the plantlets are still small, a two-inch pot is usually the proper size. Fill the pot with loose, high-quality violet potting mix, and do not pack it down! Use the tip of a pencil to make a small indentation into which the plantlet is set. It should be in the very center of the pot, and the stems and leaves should be above the soil with just the roots and the neck (if there was one) below soil level. Water each pot and set in a slightly warm and humid location. It may be helpful to place them back into a plastic bag or clear container for a few weeks to bring plants through the shock of transplanting. Be sure the violet hybrid name is transferred to the new pots.

The plantlets should take off and grow rather quickly. As the leaves grow larger and the diameter of the plant increases, it may need a larger pot. Typically, the plants should be mature enough to bloom in six to nine months.

## GO AHEAD AND PROPAGATE

African violets have gained tremendous popularity since they were first discovered in 1892. Much of that acceptance is due to the ease of propagation. Starting a violet leaf is easy, fast, and inexpensive. Exchanging leaves with friends is a great way to build a collection. Once you master the skills, you will find that you are no longer just enjoying the view, but actually participating in the hobby. Some violet growers even believe that the plants they get from leaf cuttings are stronger and more adapted to their own growing conditions. Don't be afraid. Put down a leaf!

## The Twelve Steps of AV Addiction - a lighthearted look at our favorite affliction -

by Richard Follett

Most of us are familiar with ubiquitous twelve-step programs: every addiction seems to have one. To date, the addiction to African violets boasts no such program – perhaps because there is no known cure. AV FEVER is highly infectious, spreads with alarming rapidity, and does not seem to target any one specific population, preferring instead to hop randomly and ruthlessly across the time-honored boundaries of generation, gender, and heritage. Cases have even been reported as having developed in COMPLETE isolation!

The final stage is characterized by an inexplicable drive for acquisition, propagation, and exchange far exceeding available space and resources. Other notable symptoms include compulsive smiling, a hyper-developed sense of aesthetics, and an all-consuming attention to detail. Spousal neglect has been documented. In short, this is NOT an addiction of which we can afford to remain ignorant.

Thus far, only one method of treatment has shown any promise. This approach is dual-edged, involving: a.) EARLY identification of those afflicted and b.) IMMEDIATE placement in peer groups. Studies indicate that this dual strategy may contain isolated outbreaks for a short time. Are you or any of your friends and loved ones at risk?

The following twelve-step guide to African Violet Addiction (AVA) will help you to determine whether or not the condition exists and how far it may have progressed.

- Step I: "Oh, hey – thanks! What is it? An African violet? I think my grandmother had some of these..."  
Step II: "Well, it just looked so LONELY there on the window sill all by

itself. I picked up another one at the supermarket, and now they are BOTH blooming! I wonder if they come in red..."

- Step III: "Look, Honey -- double flowers AND variegated leaves! How could I say no?"

- Step IV: "I was so upset! It's perfectly obvious that they have NO CLUE how to care for them properly in THAT store. The poor things were on their last leg – I just HAD to bring them home!"

- Step V: "You mean I can start these guys from LEAVES? Sure, let's TRADE!"

- Step VI: "Wow! SIX babies from one leaf! I'm going to need more room..."

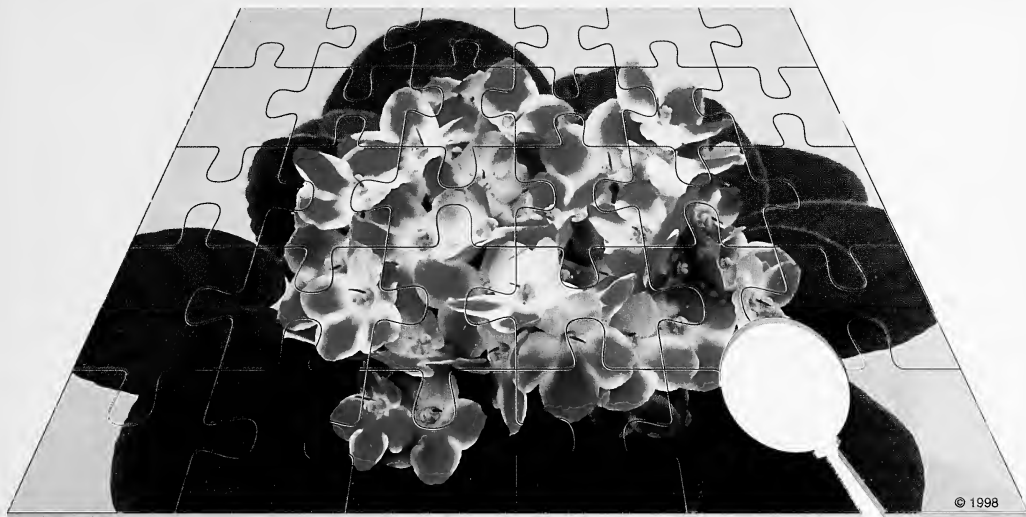
- Step VII: (Note on door): "Hi, honey - I'm at the AV club meeting, planning the Annual Show. TV dinner in the microwave - I'll be home by ten..."

- Step VIII: "Does anyone out there know where I can get this last one in the Fifty States series? I have looked EVERYWHERE..."

- Step IX: "All these? Well, we stopped by that new vendor on the way home from vacation. I had an extra day to play with, it was only two hundred miles, and gas has been so CHEAP..."

- Step X: "It USED to be the guest bedroom, but nobody visits much anymore, so I just put a few violets in here to see how they'd do..."  
Step XI: "Don't be silly - he/she loves them just as much as I do! Will you be at the Convention?"

- Step XII: "I never thought that sofa was right for the room. How do you like my new LIGHT STANDS?"



# What's Missing From This Picture?

Chances are, few of today's garden centers know as much about growing African Violets as you do. No doubt, this explains why so many knowledgeable Violet growers have a hard time finding the products they need. For anyone who knows what it takes to grow beautiful, full-blooming African Violets, it can be like putting together a puzzle, only to find there's a piece missing. We know the feeling. That's why we started the Selective Gardener, a plant care supplier that specializes in products for African Violets.

## Everything You Need to Grow Beautiful, Full-Blooming African Violets

The Selective Gardener makes it easy to get the products you need. As a plant care supplier that specializes in African Violets, the Selective Gardener carries a full line of plant care products with brand names like Optimara.

- Fully-dissolving, urea-free fertilizers
- Self-watering devices such as the Watermaid and the new, spill-proof Optimara WaterShip
- Ultralight, pH-balanced potting media
- Pots, trays and plant covers
- Show accessories and more

## From Leaf Cuttings to Finished Violets

In addition to plant care products, the Selective Gardener offers African Violets in several pot sizes, including genuine Miniatures. You can also order leaf cuttings from all of the available Optimara and Rhapsodie varieties.

## A Complete African Violet Resource

The Selective Gardener is a complete African Violet resource. Send for the Selective Gardener catalog, and you will find offers for plant care products, Violets and leaf cuttings, even books and posters. Or go online, and you will find even more. At the Selective Gardener's internet site (<http://www.selectivegardener.com>), you will have access to a number of resources not available anywhere else.

- Growing tips from the world famous Holtkamp Greenhouses
- Complete interactive Violet identification guide
- Links to other useful sites such as Doctor Optimara, a symptom-based, interactive guide for diagnosing pests and pathogens
- Reviews of African Violet products

**(Tip:** If you do not have access to the internet, try your public library. Many libraries, now, provide computers for public use, as well as helpful assistance for anyone wanting to go online.)

## The Selective Gardener Catalog

To receive the Selective Gardener catalog, send \$1 (which will be credited to your first order) with your name and address to:

The Selective Gardener  
6011 Martingale Lane  
Brentwood, TN 37027

Or visit us online at  
<http://www.selectivegardener.com>.



# A VISIT TO THE RAIN FOREST

By Ethel Campbell

"Thank you for coming to our class and teaching us about African Violets. We learned a lot. We had no idea there were so many shows and competitions for African Violets and that people actually owned and grew their own plants that were almost perfect." wrote Jennifer\*, a 5th grader in Missouri.

The CATS Honors Class was spending an entire semester studying and experiencing rain forests around the world. The creative ingenuity of honors teacher, Mrs. Edwards\* turned the classroom into a virtual rain forest for the semester-long adventure. Grades one through eight, on alternating days, explored the rain forests of the world on an age/grade appropriate level. Teacher, Mrs. Edwards\*, developed effective lesson plans for the semester.

"We think it very interesting that you can grow an African Violet from just a leaf broken off of the mother plant. We also didn't know about crossing African Violets to make new hybrid violets. We think their names are cool." wrote Tyler\* who is in seventh grade.

To broaden and challenge classroom learning, Mrs. Edwards invited Ethel Campbell, long-time AVSA Member and AVSA Judge to present the history, discovery, and culturalization of African Violets and other Saintpaulia species.

"Thank you for bringing leaves for everyone and potting soil. I hope our plants grow as big and beautiful as yours. Some of us are planning to grow ours in a terrarium. The African Violet magazines you gave us will help us to be good growers. We really enjoyed you taking time to come and teach us about the amazing rain forest flowers" wrote Kelly\*.

The forest's floors of the eastern mountain ranges of Tanzania, warmed by the gentle breezes from the Indian

Ocean, offered ideal climate conditions for the delicate species to thrive for many generations. Discovery opened doors for exciting development and culturalization leading to today's very special love affair.

Learning that African Violets, like humans, have individual genetic differences was a concept with which the students could easily identify. The process of naming the violets and other species was especially interesting and fun to students of all ages.

Hybridizing methods were studied with comparison to human reproduction. The students easily related to their own ancestry and the genetic traits passed down from generation to generation.

These academically gifted students enjoyed the hands-on experience with propagation. A section of the classroom was converted to a miniature greenhouse, complete with lights. Students were provided cups with sandwich baggies for tents, potting soil, and a variety of leaves.

Perhaps we will have a new generation of African Violet enthusiasts as evidenced by Adam\*. "Thank you for giving us violets and the knowledge to take good care of them. Hopefully, we will have them to cherish for many years." wrote Adam\* as he summed up his adventure through the rain forest of Eastern Africa.

\*Names have been changed.

**Note:** Special thanks to David Harris for his help in providing leaves for this education project.



## WINDOW SILL GROWING

By Kerry Knight

Miniature and semiminiature African violets are the ideal plant for growers with limited space. Considering their size, they can provide an enormous amount of satisfaction when successfully grown.

When choosing a plant for a window sill, look for one that is easy forming, has attractive foliage, blooms well, and stays in size. I have found that solid green foliage plants are easier to grow in natural light conditions than the variegated variety. Preferably, choose a window that faces east or has a southerly aspect. Make sure that the plants are protected from the hot sun and cold winter nights. A curtain may be used to cut down on the hot sun.

It is best to remove the plants from the windowsill at night, when the weather starts to get cold. The more direct light available to your plant, the better chance of having a good display of flowers. Remember to turn your plant by a quarter each day to keep it symmetrical.

I care for my minis in the same way as my standards. I endeavor to repot twice a year, and all are wick watered using quarter strength fertilizer. I check for side shoots (suckers) when watering and remove them at an early stage. Because of their size, you are able to have a lot more in your collection. If you haven't tried growing mini's before, why not give it a go! I am sure you will be pleasantly surprised.

# Registration Report



**Iris Keating**  
149 Loretto Court  
Claremont, CA 91711

A name reservation costs \$1.00 and is valid for two years, after which time it may be extended two years for an additional \$1.00. Registration of the plant is \$5.00 unless completed within the reservation period, in which case the balance is then \$4.00. Please make check payable to AVSA.

**Nancy Braun – Madison, WI**

**\*Debon's Christmas Morning** (9071) 10/9/01 (N. Braun) Single-semidouble bright pink ruffled star/coral overlay, wide fuchsia edge. **Crown variegated** dark green, pink and cream, scalloped/red back. **Standard**

**\*Debon's Frilly Lilly** (9072) 10/9/01 (N. Braun) Double medium pink pansy/white frilled edge. **Crown variegated** green and cream, serrated. **Standard**

\*\*\*\*\*

**George Gay – Wickliffe, KY**

**\*Antique Rose Lace** (9073) 10/19/01 (G. Gay) Single-

semidouble lavender ruffled pansy/fuchsia-rose overlay. **Variegated** dark green, white and pink, plain, ruffled. **Standard**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Pat Hancock – West Chester, OH**

**\*Buckeye Dimestore Novel** (9074) 11/9/01 (P. Hancock) Semidouble white large star/variable pink eye, rays. **Variegated** dark green, cream and pink, plain/red back. **Large**

**\*Buckeye Dress Parade** (9075) 11/9/01 (P. Hancock) Semidouble white large ruffled star/variable light pink eye, edge. **Variegated** medium green and cream, heart-shaped, quilted. **Large**

**\*Buckeye Incognito** (9076) 11/9/01 (P. Hancock) Semidouble fuchsia large ruffled star/white edge. **Variegated** dark green, pink and cream, plain, glossy, scalloped/red back. **Large**

## AVSA BOOSTER FUND

Shirley Berger

4343 Schumacher Rd - 196E • Sebring, FL 33872-2639

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OCTOBER 1 THRU NOVEMBER 30, 2001

Thelma Heinrich . . . . . \$5.00	The Unpredictables AVS, MO . . . \$10.00	Hans and Everdina Inpijn. . . . . \$25.00
Margie Scott . . . . . 5.00	Janeen Dougherty . . . . . 10.00	<i>In memory of Ralph Breden</i>
San Marcos AVC, TX . . . . . 10.00	Libbie Glembocki. . . . . 25.00	Orange County AVS, CA. . . . . 25.00
First Austin AVS, TX . . . . . 4.59	Shirley Berger . . . . . 20.00	<i>In memory of Ralph Breden</i>
Frances Olson. . . . . 10.00	Claude Morrisette. . . . . 5.00	Wisconsin Council of A.V. Clubs . . 25.00
Mid-Polk AVS, FL . . . . . 10.00	Brenda M. Brasfield. . . . . 10.00	Tri-State AVC. . . . . 15.00
<i>In memory of Elmer Coley,</i>	Gail Podany . . . . . 10.00	<i>In lieu of annual Tri-State Show</i>
<i>brother-in-law of member Anna Coley</i>	Eloise Thompson. . . . . 5.00	<i>judges' fees for Laurel Brown,</i>
Ruth and DeWane Goeke. . . . . 25.00	First Austin AVS, TX . . . . . 25.00	<i>Florence Friedman, Edna Rourke.</i>
<i>In memory of J. C. Munk</i>	<i>In memory of Mildred Blomquist,</i>	<i>Apply to micro-film project</i>
Mary Walker Beall. . . . . 25.00	<i>a long-time member</i>	Sundowners AVC, WI. . . . . 20.00
<i>In memory of Robert Hummer,</i>	Alice Kees. . . . . 10.00	Hoosier AVS, IN . . . . . 10.00
<i>husband of Alma Hummer</i>	George Stewart . . . . . 5.00	Maurice and Jackie Jones . . . . . 50.00
Marc DeVoir . . . . . 2.00	Silvermine AVS, CT . . . . . 15.00	
Edward J. Wyke . . . . . 10.00	<i>In lieu of speaker's fee for</i>	
Diane Adamo . . . . . 5.00	<i>Nancy Hayes</i>	
		<b>TOTAL . . . . \$431.59</b>

# Showcase

## *Strawberry Wave*

*Exhibited by: Morgan Simmons*

*Hybridized by: S. Sorano*

*Standard*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*

## *Buckeye Delicious*

*Hybridized & Grown by:*

*Pat Hancock*

*Standard*



*Photo Credit: Pat Hancock*



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

*Sugar Bear Blues*  
*Ness' Mini Sota, Ness' Sno Fun,*  
*Best AVSA Semiminiature Collection*  
*2001 AVSA National Show*  
*Exhibited by: Kathy Lahti*

# Growing and Enjoying African Violets

by Susan Gimblet

## The "Plant"

Some African violets are very beautiful but will never make good show plants. This may be due to inadequate hybridizing. For example, color does not hold true. Single blossoms may not hold. Leaves may curl or grow in an irregular pattern. Don't be afraid to throw these plants out or, better yet, give them away. Choose a variety of colors to have entries for different classes - singles, semi-doubles and doubles; standards, semi-miniatures, miniatures and trailers.

## Location/Lighting

Light is very important. We grow on light stands that my husband built out of wood and hung with fluorescent lights salvaged from the hospital kitchen where I worked. We also use an old bread rack hung with smaller lights.

We use one warm white and one cool white tube. I only replace them when they burn out! The lights are on for twelve hours every day. I do increase the light time one hour a week to fifteen hours prior to a show, as explained in Pauline Bartholomew's book, *Growing to Show*.

## Temperature

We converted our garage to a solarium several years ago. We installed indoor/outdoor carpet and baseboard heating. This is where the violets spend their time. The temperature is set for sixty-eight degrees. During the warmer months, this room gets very warm. We have an overhead fan, and we can open two doors to provide cross ventilation.

## Soil Mix

I currently use the Metromix available from Barbara and John Cook at Cape Cod Violetry. I have tried other soil mixes, but returned to this one.

## Feeding

I use a four week fertilizing rotation, consisting of:

Peters 20-20-20

Peters 15-16-17

Bounty and Sturdy

Plain water with lime

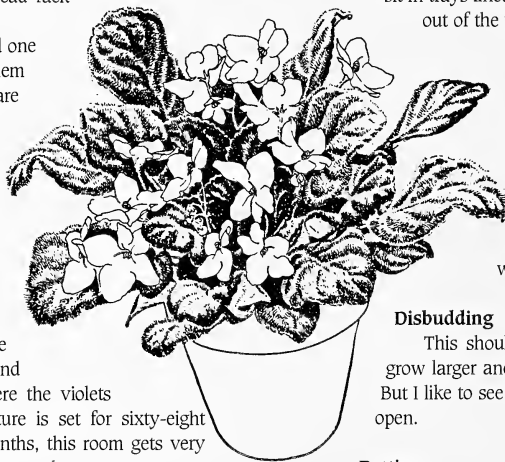
I fertilize at the rate of 1/4 tsp. to a gallon of water. I also add one drop of Superthrive to the gallon during the three weeks that I fertilize.

I did test the pH of my tap water several years ago, when I was first growing violets without a lot of success. I found it too alkaline. Violets grow better with a pH between 6.5 to 7.0, with the ideal about 6.8. We began saving the water from our dehumidifier. This works very well. If I begin to run low on water, I mix the dehumidifier water with tap water.

I follow the *Growing to Show* schedule for using a 5-50-15 strength fertilizer prior to show. I will occasionally use 12-36-14 on my variegated plants if they are too green.

## Watering

Sundays are my watering days. I have some plants (hopefully my best) on wicks. I use deli containers for the reservoir and yarn for the wick. The other plants sit in trays lined with metal screens to keep them out of the water. I water from the top until it runs out the bottom. I leave that water in the bottom of the trays to provide some humidity. If the water has not been absorbed from the reservoir or the non-wicked plants are very wet and heavy, I will try to determine why. Otherwise, all plants get watered the same - once per week.



## Disbudding

This should be done to allow the plant to grow larger and put its full energies into foliage. But I like to see flowers, so I will let some blooms open.

## Potting

I repot twice per year. Once within a month or so of show and then six months later. I try to routinely brush off soil particles. I do wash my leaves under lukewarm running water during the second repotting.

## Spraying

I will use an insecticide only if I suspect I may have a problem. I have been using Neem, purchased from Cape Cod Violetry.

Growing violets is fun! Experiment with your conditions until you find the methods that work for you. And remember, if a plant does not "produce" in two years give it away!

From *Ye Bay Stater*, publication of the Bay State AVS



# Planting by Moon Signs

## Moon in Aries

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds, pests, etc., and for cultivating.

## Moon in Taurus

Productive and moist, earthy and feminine. Used for planting many crops, particularly potatoes and root crops, and when hardness is important. Also used for lettuce, cabbage, and similar leafy vegetables.

## Moon in Gemini

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds and pests, and for cultivation.

## Moon in Cancer

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. This is the most productive sign, used extensively for planting and irrigation.

## Moon in Leo

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. This is the most barren sign, used only for killing weeds and for cultivation.

## Moon in Virgo

Barren and moist, earthy and feminine. Good for cultivation and destroying weeds and pests.

## Moon in Libra

Semi-fruitful and moist, airy and masculine. Used for planting many crops and producing good pulp growth and roots. A very good sign for flowers and vines. Also used for seeding hay, corn fodder, etc.

## Moon in Scorpio

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Nearly as productive as Cancer; used for the same purposes. Especially good for vine growth and sturdiness.

## Moon in Sagittarius

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for planting onions, seeding hay, and for cultivation.

## Moon in Capricorn

Productive and dry, earthy and feminine. Used for planting potatoes, tubers, etc.

## Moon in Aquarius

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for cultivation and destroying noxious growths, weeds, and pests.

## Moon in Pisces

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Used along with Cancer and Scorpio, especially good for root growth.

March Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Fri.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	3rd
2 Sat. 1:51 pm	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd
3 Sun.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd
4 Mon. 4:55 pm	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd
5 Tue.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	4th 8:25 pm
6 Wed. 11:48 pm	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th
7 Thu.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th
8 Fri.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th
9 Sat. 9:56 am	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th
10 Sun.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th
11 Mon. 9:56 pm	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th
12 Tue.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th
13 Wed.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	New 9:03 pm
14 Thu. 10:34 am	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st
15 Fri.	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st
16 Sat. 11:01 pm	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	1st
17 Sun.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	1st
18 Mon.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	1st
19 Tue. 10:20 am	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st
20 Wed.	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st
21 Thu. 7:06 pm	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd 9:28 pm
22 Fri.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd
23 Sat.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd
24 Sun. 12:12 am	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd
25 Mon.	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd
26 Tue. 1:44 am	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd
27 Wed.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd
28 Thu. 1:04 am	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	Full 1:25 pm
29 Fri.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	3rd
30 Sat. 12:21 am	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd
31 Sun.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd

April Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Mon. 1:48 am	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd
2 Tue.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd
3 Wed. 6:58 am	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	3rd
4 Thu.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th 10:29 am
5 Fri. 4:07 pm	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th
6 Sat.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th
7 Sun.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th
8 Mon. 3:57 am	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th
9 Tue.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th
10 Wed. 4:40 pm	Aries	Fire	Barren	4th
11 Thu.	Aries	Fire	Barren	4th
12 Fri.	Aries	Fire	Barren	New 2:21 pm
13 Sat. 4:55 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	1st
14 Sun.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	1st
15 Mon. 3:56 pm	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st
16 Tue.	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st
17 Wed.	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st
18 Thu. 1:01 am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	1st
19 Fri.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	1st
20 Sat. 7:20 am	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd 7:48 am
21 Sun.	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd
22 Mon. 10:35 am	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd
23 Tue.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd
24 Wed. 11:22 am	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	2nd
25 Thu.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	2nd
26 Fri. 11:15 am	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	Full 10:00 pm
27 Sat.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd
28 Sun. 12:13 pm	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd
29 Mon.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd
30 Tue. 4:03 pm	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	3rd

Reprinted with permission from *Llewellyn's 2002 Moon Sign Book*, published by Llewellyn Publications, ISBN 1-56718-953-9

# Showcase

## *Sansoucy' Julie-Marie*

*Exhibited by: Claire R. Gamache*

*Hybridized by: P. Sansoucy*

*AVS of Canada 2001 National Show*

*Large*

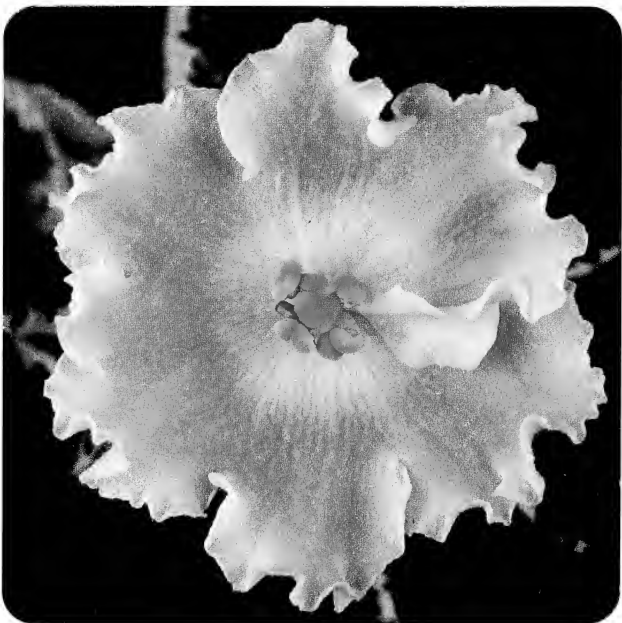


*Photo Credit: Winston J. goretsky*

## *Pink Sensation*

*Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses*

*Standard*



*Photo Credit: Paul Sorano*

**AVSA CONVENTION SHOW SCHEDULE**  
**“WASHINGTON, D.C.”**  
**2002**  
**Horticulture Division – Amateur**

**SECTION I - COLLECTIONS**  
**Class**

1. AVSA Collection of three different registered standard varieties all of the same type (three single crown or three trailers) or three different species, regardless of type.

2. AVSA Collection of three different registered miniature and semiminature varieties of the same type (three single crown miniatures, three miniature trailers, three single crown semiminatures, or three semiminature trailers).

3. Holrkamp Memorial Collection of three registered Optimara and/or Rhapsodie plants, all of the same type: standard, miniature, or semiminature.

4. Robinson Collection of three registered Rob's Violets' plants, all of the same type (three single crown miniatures, three miniature trailers, three single crown semiminatures or three semiminature trailers or three standards).

**SECTION II - STANDARD PLANTS, ANY TYPE**  
**BLOSSOM, GREEN FOLIAGE**

5. Dark blue and purple
6. Light to medium blue
7. Light to medium pink
8. Dark pink, rose, and coral
9. Red, wine, fuchsia, and plum
10. Lavender, mauve, orchid, white, cream, and blush
11. Multicolor, and chimera (all shades of blue and purple)
12. Multicolor, and chimera (all shades of pink, red, and yellow)
13. Fantasy
14. All edged

**SECTION III - STANDARD PLANTS, ANY TYPE**  
**BLOSSOM, VARIEGATED FOLIAGE**

15. Blue, purple, lavender, and orchid
16. Pink, red, fuchsia, coral, and wine
17. White, cream, and blush
18. Multicolor, and chimera
19. Fantasy and all edged

**SECTION IV - MINIATURE PLANTS, ANY TYPE BLOSSOM**

20. Purple and all shades of blue
21. Pink, coral, red, and fuchsia
22. Orchid, lavender, white, cream, and blush
23. Multicolor, chimera, and all edged
24. Fantasy
25. Purple and all shades of blue, variegated foliage
26. Pink, coral, red, and fuchsia, variegated foliage
27. Orchid, lavender, white, and blush, variegated foliage
28. Multicolor, chimera, and all edged, variegated foliage
29. Fantasy, variegated foliage

**SECTION V - SEMIMINIATURE PLANTS,**  
**ANY TYPE BLOSSOM**

30. Purple and all shades of blue
31. Pink and coral
32. Red and fuchsia
33. Orchid, lavender, white, and blush
34. All edged
35. Multicolor, and chimera
36. Fantasy
37. Purple and all shades of blue, variegated foliage.
38. Pink, coral, red, and fuchsia, variegated foliage
39. Orchid, lavender, white, and blush, variegated foliage
40. Multicolor, and chimera, variegated foliage
41. All edged, variegated foliage
42. Fantasy, variegated foliage

**SECTION VI - TRAILERS, SPECIES AND VINTAGE**  
**VIOLETS, ANY TYPE BLOSSOM, ANY FOLIAGE**

43. Standard trailers
44. Miniature trailers
45. Semiminature trailers
46. *Saintpaulia* species and natural hybrids
47. Vintage Violets (must be at least 25 years old)

**SECTION VII - NEW CULTIVARS**

48. Seedlings
49. Sports or mutants

**SECTION VIII - AFRICAN VIOLET PLANT IN**  
**UNUSUAL CONTAINER**

50. One African violet plant, either standard, miniature or semiminature in container
51. One African violet trailer in container

**SECTION IX - GESNERIADS OTHER THAN**  
**AFRICAN VIOLETS**

52. Miniatures (may be displayed in regular pots or growing in clear container, cover permitted; no single plant more than 5" in diameter)
53. Tuberous-rooted (*Sinningia*, *Nautocalyx*, *Chrysanthemum*, etc.)
54. Scaly-rhizomed in bloom
55. Fibrous-rooted in bloom (*Streptocarpus*/*Streptocarpella*)
56. Fibrous-rooted in bloom (Long stemmed such as *Aeschynanthus*, *Columna*, *Nematanthus*, etc.)
57. Fibrous-rooted in bloom (All other blooming fibrous-rooted such as *Chirita*, *Episcia*, *Petrocosmea*, *Alsobia*, etc.)
58. Gesneriads grown for ornamental foliage (All *Episcia*)
59. Gesneriads grown for ornamental foliage (Other than *Episcia*)

## DESIGN DIVISION

### SECTION X - INTERPRETIVE FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

Interpretive flower arrangements are designs using fresh-cut African violet blossoms, and other plant material. Fresh-cut, dried, treated, or colored plant material, and man-made materials other than artificial plant material, plus accessories, backdrops, and draping are permitted unless restricted by the schedule. Tape may not be used on niches.

60. **"Crystal City"** - Crystal City is a Washington, D.C. suburb where glass and lights are found in nearly every building, giving the illusion of sparkling crystal. Incorporate a piece of "crystal" - glass or mirror - into a design. A miniature arrangement to be staged in a lighted, white niche, 6"H x 5"W x 4"D. Limited to 5 entries.

61. **"Embassy Row"** - Washington is home to many foreign embassies. Create a design that reflects one of the countries whose embassy is in Washington, D.C. Identify the embassy by naming it on the 3" x 5" card. A miniature arrangement to be staged in a lighted, white niche, 6"H x 5"W x 4"D. Limited to 5 entries.

62. **"The National Postal Museum"** - The National Postal Museum contains exhibits portraying the history of the nation's postal service. It includes one of the largest collections of stamps in the world with more than 55,000 stamps. Incorporate a postage stamp in some aspect of a design. A small flower arrangement to be staged in a white niche, 8 1/2"H x 8"W x 4"D. Limited to 8 entries.

63. **"The Potomac"** - The Potomac River marks the western boundary of Washington, D.C., separating the city from Virginia. Create an underwater design to be viewed from the front only. No background or underlay is permitted. Container must not exceed 12" in length, height, or width. Limited to 10 entries.

64. **"Explorers Hall"** - This hall in the National Geographic Society's headquarters features an eleven foot sphere, Earth Station One, which is said to be the world's largest free-standing, hand-painted globe. National Geographic expeditions have covered the earth. Create a design showing us where you would like to explore. To be displayed in front of an 8-inch gray circle which will be provided. Limited to 10 entries.

65. **"Air & Space Museum"** - The Smithsonian museum is devoted to the history and development of air and space technology. This very popular site attracts young and old alike with its vast collection of artifacts, which run the gamut from early days of flight to present day forays into outer space. Construct a suspended flower arrangement to be staged in a white niche, 28"H x 21"W x 15"D. Dowels to be supplied by the designer. Limited to 6 entries.

66. **"Chinatown's Friendship Archway"** - The entrance to Washington's Chinatown is marked by the famous Friendship Arch. The Arch has 7000 tiles and is decorated with nearly 300 painted dragons in red, green, blue and gold. The Chinese New Year's parade passes under the Arch. Create a design with oriental flavor. A flower arrangement to be staged in a white niche, 24"H x 18"W x 15"D. Limited to 4 entries.

67. **"Pandamonium"** - Late in 2000, the National Zoo acquired two pandas from China on lease for ten years. This exhibit is the most popular attraction at the Zoo. Create a design exclusively in black and white. A flower arrangement to be staged in a white niche, 18"H x 15"W x 12"D. Limited to 6 entries

### SECTION XI - INTERPRETIVE PLANT ARRANGEMENTS

Interpretive plant arrangements are designs using one or more African violet plants, removed from their pots with the root ball enclosed in plastic or some other material. Fresh-cut, dried, treated, or colored plant material and man-made material other than artificial plant material, plus accessories, backdrops, and draping may be used unless restricted by the schedule. Tape may not be used on niches.

68. **"The White House"** - 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue has been the home of every president except George Washington. The White House is perhaps the most recognized building in the United States. Create a design using an African violet with white blossoms. A plant arrangement to be staged in a white niche, 18"H x 15"W x 12"D. Limited to 6 entries.

69. **"National Archives"** - Exhibition Hall in the National Archives is home to many old historic documents that have helped to shape our nation. These documents include the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights and a copy of the Magna Carta. Incorporate a piece of parchment-like paper in this design. A plant arrangement to be staged in a white niche, 24"H x 18"W x 15"D. Limited to 4 entries.

70. **"Washington National Cathedral"** - This fine example of Gothic architecture houses noteworthy sculpture, stained-glass windows, gardens and a carillon. Sitting on a hill high above the city, the twin spires of this edifice are visible from many areas. Using two containers, create a design representing the majesty and symbolism this building evokes. A plant arrangement to be staged in a white niche, 28"H x 21"W x 15"D. Limited to 4 entries.

71. **"Cherry Blossoms"** - A great time to visit Washington, D.C. is in mid-spring when the cherry blossom trees are in bloom along the banks of the Tidal Basin. More than 3000 Japanese cherry trees provide a profusion of flowers and their reflections create a magical scene. Create a design utilizing a pink blooming miniature or semiminature African violet. A plant arrangement to be staged in a white niche, 12"H x 10"W x 8"D. Limited to 6 entries.

72. **"Old Glory"** - The flag with its stars and stripes in red, white and blue is a powerful symbol of our great nation. Create a design that incorporates one or more of the flag's strong elements. (Reminder: "The American flag... shall not be used in any design division exhibit.") A plant arrangement to be staged in a white niche, 18"H x 15"W x 12"D. Limited to 6 entries.

73. **"The Smithsonian Institution"** - Described by many as the nation's attic, the Smithsonian houses many reminders of our past. Create a design using a component from a bygone era. A plant arrangement to be staged in a white niche, 28"H x 21"W x 15"D. Limited to 4 entries.

74. **"Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts"** - Countless operas have been staged in this magnificent complex. Using suitable components, suggest one such opera, to be named on the 3" x 5" card. A plant arrangement to be staged in a white niche, 28"H x 21"W x 15"D. Limited to 4 entries.

75. **"The Washington Monument"** - Create a vertical design suggesting this most visible of all tourist attractions. A plant arrangement to be staged in a white niche, 24"H x 18"W x 15"D. Limited to 4 entries.

## SECTION XII - CONTAINER GARDENS

Container gardens are miniature scenes in which one or more blooming African violet plants, along with other plants, are actually planted and growing in the container. No cut plant materials are permitted.

76. **Terrarium** - Plantings are in a covered, transparent container that does not exceed 30" in length or width. Accessories are permitted

77. **Natural Garden** - Plantings are in a container formed from a natural material, such as driftwood or lava rock, that does not exceed 24" in length or width. Natural gardens may have more than one planting area or pocket.

78. **Dish Garden** - Plantings are in a small uncovered, shallow, dish-like container that does not exceed 12" in length or width. Accessories are permitted.

79. **Dish Garden** - Plantings are in an uncovered, shallow, dish-like container that does not exceed 24" in length or width. Accessories are permitted.

## SPECIAL EXHIBITS DIVISION

### SECTION XIII-EDUCATION EXHIBIT

80. Education exhibit (by invitation only)

## COMMERCIAL HORTICULTURE DIVISION

### SECTION XIV - SPECIMEN PLANTS

#### A. Collections

- 81. AVSA Collections-Standard Plants
- 82. AVSA Collections-Miniatures and Semiminiatures
- 83. Holtkamp Memorial Collections

#### B. New Cultivars (from seed or mutation)

- 84. Standard African Violets
- 85. Miniature African Violets
- 86. Semiminiature African Violets
- 87. African Violet Trailers (standard, miniature, semiminiature)

#### C. Specimen African Violets

- 88. Standard, plain green foliage
- 89. Standard, variegated foliage
- 90. Miniatures, plain foliage, solid color and two-tone blossoms
- 91. Miniatures, plain foliage, all other blossoms
- 92. Miniatures, variegated foliage, any type or color blossom
- 93. Semiminiatures, plain foliage, solid color and two-tone blossoms
- 94. Semiminiatures, plain foliage, all other blossoms
- 95. Semiminiatures, variegated foliage, solid color and two-tone blossoms
- 96. Semiminiatures, variegated foliage, all other blossoms
- 97. Trailers (standard, miniature, semiminiature)
- 98. Saintpaulia species
- D. Gesneriads Other Than African Violets
- 99. Fibrous-rooted gesneriads in bloom
- 100. All other gesneriads in bloom
- 101. Gesneriads grown for ornamental foliage

## SECTION XV - DISPLAYS

102. Display Tables

103. Commercial Showcase-Horticulture only

104. Commercial Showcase-Horticulture Plus - includes a creative aspect

## HORTICULTURE DIVISION Amateur-Rules and Regulations

1. Only amateur AVSA members in good standing and registered at this convention are eligible to enter exhibits in this division.

2. Entries will be accepted on Thursday, May 23, 2002, from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. Members **ON TOUR THURSDAY ONLY** may enter on Thursday, May 23 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. If an entry is not entered by the owner, the name of the person making the entry must be on the back of the entry tag.

3. Only clean, healthy plants which have been in the possession of the exhibitor for at least three months will be accepted.

4. Plants must be correctly named or they will be subject to correction by the classification committee.

5. Double potting, flared-top pots, supports, and collars will not be accepted. All pots must be non-decorative. DO NOT COVER POTS IN FOIL. Self-watering pots, such as Moist-Rite and Oyama, etc. may be entered in colors such as white, black, green, or any neutral tone. All other plants must be slip potted into pots in colors such as white, green or any neutral tone. Slip potting means dropping the pot containing the plant into a clean pot of the same or just a fraction larger sized pot. It is recommended that plastic be placed in the bottom of the outer pot to prevent leakage onto the table covering. This must be worked out prior to entry. Exception: trailers, trailing species, trailing gesneriads, and gesneriads in protective containers may be exhibited in the containers in which they are growing.

6. An exhibitor may enter only one plant of each variety in classes 5 through 47.

7. An exhibitor may enter plants of the same variety in classes 1, 2, 3, 4, 46, 47, 48, 50, and 51 as those in classes 5 through 47.

8. All plants in classes 1 through 51 must be single-crown plants except trailers and some species, which may be multiple-crown. S. Amazon *velutina*, S. Amazon *grotet*, S. Sigi Falls and S. House of Amani will be accepted in Class 46.

9. Any number of new cultivars may be entered provided they have been originated by the exhibitor from hybridization, from purchased seed, or from mutation; or the released rights in writing from the hybridizer have been given to the exhibitor for purchased seedlings. New cultivars may be entered by number or name, and the entry tag must indicate whether it is a new cultivar from seed or mutation. A sport (mutant) may be exhibited as a "Sport of \_\_\_\_\_." If a name has been given to the sport, the name in parenthesis may follow, such as "Sport of 'Valencia' ('Dale's Dream')." New cultivars must not have been previously shown in an AVSA Convention Show.

10. Gesneriads (other than African violets) may be exhibited in protective containers, and natural-colored mulch may be used on the soil surface.

11. Exhibits will be judged by the merit method of judging. The decision of the judges will be final unless in conflict with AVSA rules or rules of the schedule. Only qualified AVSA judges will be permitted to serve as judges.

12. Only blue ribbon winners will be eligible to receive special awards.

13. Any African violet entered in any of the collection classes and receiving a blue ribbon will be eligible for other awards.

14. All African violets entered in the Holtkamp Memorial Collection, Class 3, must be AVSA registered Optimara and/or Rhapsodie plants and must be different plants of the same type.

15. All African violets entered in the Robinson Collection, Class 4, must be AVSA registered.

16. Only one collection may be entered by an exhibitor in each collection class.

17. AVSA will afford all possible protection to exhibits, but will not be responsible for any damages or losses.

18. Entries must be checked out on Saturday night, May 25. Instructions on check out will be given at the convention.

## DESIGN DIVISION Rules and Regulations

1. Both amateur and commercial AVSA members in good standing and registered at this convention are eligible to enter exhibits in this division.

2. Entries will be accepted on Thursday, May 23, 2002, from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. Members **ON TOUR THURSDAY ONLY** may enter on Thursday, May 23 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Design entry books will be closed at 9:00 pm Thursday and all designs must be in place for classification.

3. Exhibitors will be permitted to work on their designs on Thursday, May 23, **until 10:00 P.M.** On Friday, May 24 designers may **ONLY** place blossoms and "touch up" designs from 7:00 to 8:00 A.M. All exhibitors and their materials **must be out of the show room by 8:00 A.M.** Friday, May 24.

4. Each exhibitor may have only one entry per class. There is a limit of eight entries per exhibitor in flower and plant arrangement classes combined (Classes 60-75) and one entry per class by an exhibitor in container gardens (Classes 76-79).

5. All entries must be creations of the exhibitors, and must be placed by the exhibitors. No part of any design may touch or extend beyond the confines of the niche or space limitations. Live creatures and the American or national flags are not permitted.

6. All exhibits must have a 3" x 5" card listing the African violet varieties and other plant materials (if known.) A written subtitle may also be included on the card.

7. Exhibits will be merit judged by qualified AVSA judges. Decisions of the judges will be final, unless in conflict with AVSA rules or the rules of this schedule.

8. Only blue ribbon exhibits will be eligible to receive special awards.

9. AVSA will afford all possible protection to exhibits, but will not be responsible for any damages or losses.

10. Design entries must be removed from the show room after the show closes on Saturday night, May 25. Instructions on check out will be provided at the convention.

11. Advance written reservations are required for ALL design classes. Anyone desiring to enter designs must send a completed reservation blank (or copy) from this show schedule by regular mail only, **postmarked no earlier than March 8, 2002, nor later than April 28, 2002**, to: Susan Hanna, 472 Store Road, Harleysville, PA 19438. No telephone reservations will be accepted. Persons wishing to cancel confirmed reservations or ask questions concerning the schedule or staging of designs may write to the above address, or call 215-256-9752, or e-mail <shanna825@hotmail.com>

## COMMERCIAL HORTICULTURE DIVISION Rules and Regulations

1. Only commercial AVSA members in good standing and registered at this convention are eligible to enter this Division. A commercial exhibitor may enter **EITHER** a display table **OR** a commercial showcase, but not both. Exhibitors in the commercial showcase class may also enter specimen horticulture, Section XIV. All commercial exhibitors are eligible to enter the Design Division.

2. For dates and times for entering exhibits, please refer to rule 2 under HORTICULTURE DIVISION AMATEUR.

3. All plants must be correctly named and must have been in the possession of the exhibitor for at least three months prior to convention. All African violets must be in bloom and must be single crown plants, except trailers and some species.

4. In the Specimen Plant Section, exhibitors may enter any number of plants in each class, but only one plant of the same variety in the same class. Exhibitors may enter plants of the same variety in the AVSA Collections, classes 77 and 78, and the Holtkamp Memorial Collection, class 79, as are entered in the other classes. Exhibitors may enter one collection in each collection class. Plants entered in the Holtkamp Memorial Collection class must be AVSA registered Optimara/Rhapsodie plants. AVSA collections rules are the same as for amateurs.

5. Only plants labeled "New Cultivar" in either Specimen Plant, Display Table or Commercial Showcase sections will be considered for AVSA Best New Cultivar Awards.

6. Entries for AVSA Best New Cultivar Awards may be seedlings (plants originally from seed), sports, or mutants originated by the exhibitor, or the right and ownership to them released by the hybridizer, and must not have been previously shown in an AVSA Convention Show. Each entry must be labeled "New Cultivar".

7. Exhibitors in the Commercial Showcase section will be allotted table space sufficient for their display. Tables covers will be neutral.

8. Each display table shall contain 15 plants (no merchandise). Three, all of the same type, miniatures or semiminiatures, or miniature or semiminiature trailers shall count as a specimen plant and shall be judged as one unit. The display must be predominantly (at least 75%) African violets. Other gesneriads may be included in the 15 plants and will be judged as one unit.

9. Exhibits in the Commercial Showcase section shall contain 6-10 plants, either miniature, semiminiature, standard or trailing African violets, or other gesneriads. Designs (flower or plant arrangements or container gardens) incorporating African violets may be included in class 104 - Commercial Showcase - Horticulture Plus. Each design will count as the equivalent of one entry.

Showcases must be predominantly (more than 50%) African violets or designs using African violets. No merchandise will be allowed in this section.

10. In Commercial Showcase each entry in the exhibit will be judged. Class 103 shall use standard plant name and entry tags supplied by Entries. In Class 104, the exhibitor has the option to use the standard plant name tag provided by Entries, or to provide his own tag or diagram. The entry book number of each plant or arrangement must appear on the tag or diagram. For class 104, no ribbon awards will be given, instead, each showcase with all blue ribbon entries will receive a rosette award. A point score sheet shall be given each exhibitor showing how awards were determined.

11. Any African violet plant on a display table or in a commercial showcase may be designated as competing for the AVSA Best New Cultivar Awards.

12. A 6' table with three tiers will be furnished for each exhibitor in the Display Table section. Uniformly covered tables shall be furnished. The exhibitors may provide their own covering, but selection is limited to solid colors. No other material, such as ivy, may be used. Colored lights which distort or enhance the color of the plants will not be permitted.

13. Any shape and type of pot for specimen plants will be permitted, except flared top pots. Supports and collars will not be permitted. Pots in the specimen plant section must be slip potted into clean, non-decorative pots in colors such as white, green or any neutral tone. The bottom of the pot containing the plant must be completely covered with plastic or aluminum foil. The pot is then inserted into a pot of the same size or shape. The inside pot may

be of any color and may extend above the rim of the outside pot. Exceptions to slip potting are self contained reservoirs (i.e., Oyama, Moist Rite, etc.) in colors such as white, green, black, or any neutral tone. Pots in the Display Table section do not have to be covered and may be elevated and tilted with individual pot holders.

14. Prior to judging, signs, cards, or codes identifying the exhibitor may not be displayed on the display tables or commercial showcases.

15. Exhibits will be judged by the merit method of judging. The decision of the judges is final unless in conflict with AVSA rules or rules of the schedule. Only qualified AVSA judges will be permitted to serve as judges.

16. Only blue ribbon entries will be eligible to receive awards.

17. Entries in the Display Table section and the Commercial Showcase section will not count toward Commercial Sweepstakes or Design Sweepstakes Awards.

18. Rosettes will be awarded as merited to the exhibitors of Display Tables receiving the first, second, and third highest number of points. An Honorable Mention Rosette will be awarded to the exhibitor receiving the fourth highest number of points.

19. A Point-Score Sheet shall be given to each Display Table exhibitor to show how awards were determined.

20. AVSA will afford all possible protection to exhibits but will not be responsible for any damages or losses.

21. To reserve a display table, space for a commercial showcase, or for further information, contact Pat Richards, 15105 S. Seminole Drive, Olathe, KS 66062-3004, phone (913) 829-4258, email Patter257@aol.com. Reservations must be made no later than April 1, 2002.



## African Violet Society of America, Inc. 2002 Tours – Washington, DC

**Tour #1**  
Monday, May 20, 2002



Cost: \$17.00

**Potomac Mills Mall**  
9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

One of the most visited attractions in the state. Come shop until you drop and experience the Mills Effect. Find the best selection of designer names at less than designer prices. With more than 220 manufacturer's outlets and name brand discounters, the mall offers something for everyone. You will receive a coupon book and shopping bag. Visit their website at [www.potomacmills.com](http://www.potomacmills.com)

**Tour #2**  
Monday, May 20, 2002

The first stop will be the Washington **National Cathedral**, officially known as the Cathedral Church of St. Peter and St. Paul. It took 83 years to build and when it was finished in 1990 it became the second largest church in the United States and the world's sixth largest cathedral. The architecture is drawn from the 14th century Gothic, the same style of medieval churches. The walls are made of Indiana limestone. Pay special attention to the glass windows, "West Rose Window" and the "Space Window"

**Washington, DC**  
9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.



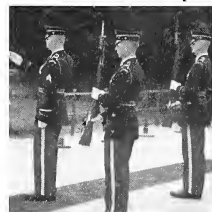
commemorating the flight of Apollo XI. Philip Hubert Frohman was the principal architect from 1921 until his death in 1972. President Woodrow Wilson and his second wife Edith are entombed here. The next stop will be the **National Zoological Park**, located in the Rock Creek Park. The zoo is on 160 acres and is part of the Smithsonian Institution. Meet the newest addition Tian Tian and Mei Xiang, the giant pandas on loan from China. Visit the Great Ape House and the Great Flight Cage. Enjoy lunch on your own. Board the bus for a ride to the **Lincoln Memorial**, the **Vietnam Veterans Memorial**, and the **Jefferson Memorial**. This tour will have a lot of walking and there are gift shops at every stop. Visit the website at [www.washingtondc.com](http://www.washingtondc.com).

Cost: \$23.00

**Tour #3**  
Tuesday, May 21, 2002

We will visit **Arlington National Cemetery**. You will board a charter tour mobile and visit the final resting place of many of America's patriots - from foot soldiers to Presidents, the well known to the unknown. Visit the grave site of John F. and Jacqueline B. Kennedy, Challenger Space Shuttle Memorial, and Tomb of the Unknowns. The changing of

**Arlington County**  
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



the guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns is conducted every half hour. This tour will take approximately three hours. Visit the website [www.arlingtoncemetery.com](http://www.arlingtoncemetery.com).

**Cost: \$24.00**

#### Tour #4

Tuesday, May 21, 2002  
5:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

We will attend the Sunset Parade at the **Iwo Jima Memorial**. The Marine Corps presents the Marine Sunset Review Parade featuring the Drum and Bugle Corps and the Silent Drill Team. The United States Marine Memorial is the largest cast-bronze statue in the world, featuring 32 foot tall figures (five marines, one sailor) erecting a 60 foot tall bronze flagpole. The cloth flag flies 24 hours a day in accordance with a Presidential proclamation of June 12, 1961. The sculpture was designed by Felix W. deWeldon, then on duty with the U.S. Navy, from the Pulitzer prize-winning photo by Joe Rosenthal. After the parade, we will drive past the **DC Monuments** on the way back to the hotel. Note: The bus will stop where you will have a selection of eating establishments for dining on your own before the Sunset Parade begins.

**Cost: \$22.00**

#### Sunset Parade



#### Tour #7

Thursday, May 23, 2002



#### Manassas Battlefield

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

One of Prince William County's most famous attractions, this 5,000 acre park was the scene of two important Civil War battles. The First and Second Battles of Manassas were fought along the waters of Bull Run Creek in 1861 and 1862. On this battlefield General Andrew Jackson was first observed standing "like a stone wall", hence the nickname "Stonewall Jackson". Enter the visitor center for your introduction to this historic site by watching a slide show and following the flow of the battles that took place here beyond the banks of a stream called **Bull Run**.

After our visit, we will drive to the town of Occoquan. Occoquan is a Douge Indian word for "at the end of the water". Here are the gingerbread-accented shops and galleries of a historical district that are listed in the National Register. Visit the Mill House Museum, explore the town, shop and have lunch at one of the restaurants. In 1916 a fire devastated much of the town. In 1972, Hurricane Agnes struck, destroying buildings, streets and the Occoquan Pratt iron-truss bridge. Residents and merchants repaired and restored the historic buildings. Many buildings have been in continuous use for over one hundred years. Visit Occoquan website: [www.occoquan.org](http://www.occoquan.org).

**Cost: \$26.00**

#### Tour #5

Wednesday, May 22, 2002



#### Mount Vernon

9:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Visit the home of George Washington. We will start our visit with a Potomac River Sightseeing cruise aboard the climate controlled Potomac Spirit cruise ship. A costumed historic re-enactor will discuss life at Mount Vernon. A buffet lunch will be served. Then you may tour the Mansion on your own. The Mansion was built in 1725. The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association provides information about each room in the house, which contains many original furnishings and is painted in bright hues used in the 18th century. The exterior of the building is covered in wooden shingles made to look like the rustic stone commonly found in Italian renaissance architecture. The mansion's veranda overlooks the Potomac River. There are many outbuildings, including the kitchen, the salt house, the greenhouse, the gardener's house, the ice house, the overseer's quarters, the coach house, the wash house, and the stable. Visit the New Tomb, final resting place of George Washington, his wife Martha and other family members. The slave burial ground, marked by a memorial to honor African-American slaves who worked at Mount Vernon, is on a wooded hill near the New Tomb. Visit the gift shop at the end of your tour. Visit the Mount Vernon website at [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org).

**Cost: \$51.00**

#### Tour #6

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Enjoy dinner and the show, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, at the West End Dinner theater. Coat and tie required.

**Cost: \$50.00**

#### West End Dinner Theater

5:15 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.



#### Tour #8

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Visit the home of George Washington. Tour the Mansion on your own. The Mansion was built in 1735. The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association provides information about each room in the house, which contains many original furnishings and is painted in bright hues used in the 18th century. The exterior of the building is covered in wooden shingles made to look like the rustic stone commonly found in Italian Renaissance architecture. The Mansion's veranda overlooks the Potomac River. There are many outbuildings, including the kitchen, the salt house, the greenhouse, the gardener's house, the ice house, the overseer's quarters, the coach house, the wash house, and the stable. Visit the New Tomb, final resting place of George Washington, his wife Martha and other family members. The slave burial ground, marked by a memorial to honor African-American slaves who worked at Mount Vernon, is on a wooded hill near the New Tomb. Visit the gift shop at the end of your tour. Visit the Mount Vernon website at [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org).

Next stop will be the Old Town Alexandria. In 1669, Scotsman John Alexandria purchased the land for "six thousand pounds of Tobacco and Cask". By the 18th century the city was a prominent center for the export of crop tobacco. Landholders and businessmen William Ramsey and John Carlyle successfully petitioned the Virginia General Assembly to establish a town in the fall of 1748. By the spring of 1749 Alexandria was born. Alexandria became a bustling seaport. Alexandria was a principal Colonial trading center and port prior to the American Revolution. Visit the Ramsey House Visitors Center, shops, restaurants, and the Potomac river front. Lunch is on your own.

**Cost: \$33.00**

#### Mount Vernon

9:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.





## **MEAL FUNCTION SEATING**

Reservations received on or **before**  
**April 26, 2002** will receive table assignments.  
All reservations received after that date will  
have **unreserved seating** at meal functions.

Special meal requests must be  
made to the AVSA Office at  
time of registration. Requests  
made directly to the hotel will  
**not** be honored.

## **WANTED! Slides for Social Hour**

Please share your slides of our 55th Chicago  
Convention. They will be shown at the Thursday night  
social hour. Include any information about the slide  
(names, state, etc.). We especially need slides taken  
on the Chicago tours

Slides sent in from the 2001 Chicago Convention  
will be donated to the AVSA library, unless you  
request them to be returned.

Please send your slides by April 26, 2002 to:

**Nancy G. Hayes  
9 Cobblestone Rd.  
Bloomfield, CT 06002**

## **ATTENTION: Hybridizers WANTED:**

Photo slides of New Introductions for the Thursday  
Night Social at the 2002 Convention in Washington,  
DC. This year's narrator will be Nancy Hayes. This is  
an excellent way for seasoned and beginning  
hybridizers to introduce their new HYBRIDS.

Please send two (2) slides of each new plant;  
one viewing the plant and the other a close-up of  
the blossom. Please include with your slides a  
written description of each slide, marked with a  
corresponding number for clarification. Send your  
slides before April 26, 2002, to:

**Anne Nicholas  
3113 Deerfield Dr.  
Denton, TX 76208**

**Don't forget the  
AVSA Auction at the  
Saturday Luncheon!  
See page 17 of the  
January/February 2002  
AVM for details!**

## **"Meet the Board of Directors" Luncheon**

This year the Wednesday Luncheon is open  
to all members. Meet your officers and  
board members in an informal setting.  
Avoid the crowds at the restaurants.  
Relax and dine with your friends.  
Come one, come all!!

**56th Annual AVSA Convention & Show**  
**Sunday, May 19, 2002 to Sunday, May 26, 2002**  
***"Mr. Violet Goes to Washington"***

**SUNDAY, May 19, 2002**

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

AVSA Convention Pre-Con  
Registration  
Information

**MONDAY, May 20, 2002**

7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.  
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon  
**9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**  
**9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**  
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Registration  
Information  
**Tour #1 - Potomac Mills Mall**  
**Tour #2 - Washington, DC**  
Registration  
Information

**TUESDAY, May 21, 2002**

7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.  
8:00 a.m. to Completion  
**9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**  
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
**5:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.**  
8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Registration  
Executive Board Meeting  
**Tour #3 - Arlington County**  
Information  
Registration  
Information  
Convention Committee Meeting  
**Tour #4 - Sunset Parade**  
Shows and Judges Committee Meeting

**WEDNESDAY, May 22, 2002**

7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
8:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.  
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon  
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon  
**9:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**  
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
**5:15 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.**

Registration  
Judging School  
New Director's Orientation  
Board of Director's Meeting  
Information  
**Tour #5 - Mount Vernon**  
Ways & Means Table, Baton Rouge Promotional Table  
"Meet the Board of Directors" Luncheon  
AVSA Information and Sales  
Information  
Registration  
Awards Committee meeting  
Affiliate's Meeting  
**Tour #6 - West End Dinner Theater**

**THURSDAY, May 23, 2002**

7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.  
7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
**9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**  
**9:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**  
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Teacher's Breakfast  
Registration  
Commercial Sales Open  
Information  
**Tour #7 - Manassas Battlefield**  
**Tour #8 - Mount Vernon**  
Nominating Committee meeting

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Hospitality Room Open  
 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon AVSA Information and Sales  
 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Classification and Entries  
 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Ways & Means Table, Baton Rouge Promotional Table  
 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Information  
 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. AVSA Information and Sales  
 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Hospitality Room Open  
 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Registration  
 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Future Conventions Meeting  
 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. President's Reception for Board of Directors  
 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Entries for **Those on Tours Only**  
 7:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. 2001 Chicago Convention and New Introduction Slides  
 7:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. Social Break  
 8:15 p.m. to 9:45 p.m. **"Let Me Tell You About My Violets", A Grower's Forum**  
 10:00 p.m. Design Work and Commercial Display Set-ups will close for the night

#### FRIDAY, May 24, 2002

7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. Design Exhibitors will be permitted to finish designs and replace blossoms  
*for replacement of blossoms only.*  
 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Information  
 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Registration  
 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Judges and Clerks Instructions  
 9:00 a.m. to Completion Judging of Show  
 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Hospitality Room Open  
 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon AVSA Information & Sales  
 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Commercial Sales Open  
 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. **Presentation #1** - "Hands on Dish Garden" by Olive Ma Robinson  
 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. **Presentation #2** - "Celebrating *Superman's* 50th Birthday" by Ethel Champion  
 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Ways & Means Table, Baton Rouge Promotional Table  
 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. **Presentation #3** - "Hands on Dish Garden" by Olive Ma Robinson  
 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. **Presentation #4** - "Patenting African Violets" by Bruce Campell  
 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Information  
 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Registration  
 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. AVSA Information & Sales  
 1:15 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Commercial Members Luncheon  
 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Commercial Sales Open  
 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Hospitality Room Open  
 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. **Presentation #5** - "Growing for Show: A Panel Discussion" Moderator Nancy  
 Hayes, Panelists: Marie Burns, Kathy Lahti, Pat Richards  
 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. **Presentation #6** - "Gesneriads at the Smithsonian" by Laurence Skog  
 3:00 p.m. to Completion Photography - Library and AVM  
 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Opening Reception (cash bar)  
 7:00 p.m. to Completion Opening Dinner - Show awards will be announced  
 9:30 p.m. to 12:00 m/n Show opens to **AVSA Convention Registrants Only**

#### SATURDAY, May 25, 2002

7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Showroom open to photographers only  
 7:15 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Judges' Breakfast and Workshop  
 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon Registration  
 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon Information  
 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. **Presentation #7** "The Eastern Arc Mountains: Home of African Violets" by Gerard Hertel  
 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. **Presentation #8** "Advanced Judging Skills: Choosing the Best in Horticulture" by Bill Foster  
 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Hospitality Room Open  
 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon AVSA Information & Sales  
 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Show Room Open  
 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Commercial Sales Open  
 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon Agriculture Officials available to certify plant materials for transportation into controlled countries and states

10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.  
 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
 7:00 p.m. to Completion  
 9:45 p.m. to 10:15 p.m.  
 9:45 p.m. to 12:00 m/n  
 10:15 p.m.  
 12:00 m/n

Ways & Means Table, Baton Rouge Promotional Table  
 Violets "On Line" Meeting  
 Luncheon and Auction  
 Hospitality Room Open  
 Annual Membership Meeting and Open Forum  
 President's Reception and Hospitality Hour (non-alcoholic punch provided) (cash bar)  
 Installation Banquet  
 Commercial Display Tables Checkout  
 Commercial Sales Breakdown  
 Entry Checkout Begins  
 Show Room Closes

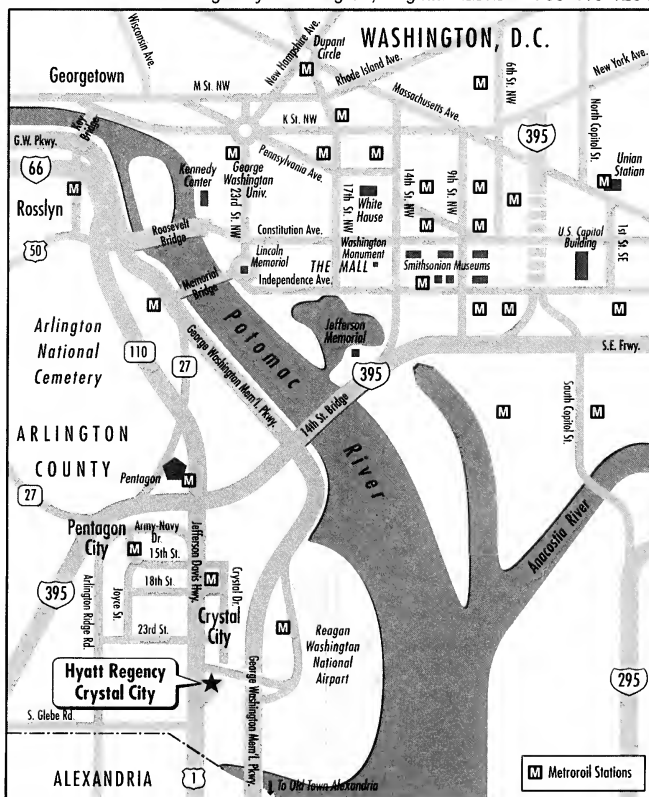
### SUNDAY, May 26, 2002

6:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon  
 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon  
 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon  
 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon  
 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Commercial Sales Breakdown  
 Local Storage Clean-up  
 Commercial Storage Clean-up  
 Show Room Clean-up  
 Board of Directors meeting

## Hyatt Regency Crystal City

2799 Jefferson Davis Highway • Arlington, Virginia 22202 • 703-418-1234



# WASHINGTON DC AVSA CONVENTION PRESENTATIONS

## 1. Hands On Dish Gardens

Friday May 24, 2002 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

By Olive Ma Robinson, Naples, New York; Karyn Cichocki, Lafayette, New Jersey; and Paul Kroll, East Aurora, New York  
\$15 fee (collected at the door)

A team of three experienced designers will lead this hands-on workshop teaching how to landscape a dish garden that incorporates violets, other plant material and accessories. Each participant will make a garden that they will take home following class. *Students are asked to bring tools including tweezers, scissors, spoon, and small soft brush if possible. Limit of 30 students in session.*

## 2. Celebrating Superman's 50th Birthday

Friday May 24, 2002 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.

By Ethel Champion, Clay, New York

In 1952, Ethel Champion named a new seedling in her violet hybridizing program 'Superman'. This heroic original plant has been repotted faithfully every year since, and has often won blue ribbons at show in the fifty years that followed. It is now the oldest African violet plant known in existence, and it continues to grow and bloom. Mrs. Champion, whose hybridizing work is part of AVSA lore, will introduce participants to 'Superman' and will share both of their stories. This is truly a rare historical opportunity not to be missed.

## 3. Hands On Dish Gardens

(Repeat of Presentation #1)

Friday May 24, 2002 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

By Olive Ma Robinson, Naples, New York; Karyn Cichocki, Lafayette, New Jersey; and Paul Kroll, East Aurora, New York  
\$15 fee (collected at the door)

A team of three experienced designers will lead this hands-on workshop teaching how to landscape a dish garden that incorporates violets, other plant material and accessories. Each participant will make a garden that they will take home following class. *Students are asked to bring tools including tweezers, scissors, spoon, and small soft brush if possible. Limit of 30 students in session.*

## 4. Patenting African Violets

Friday May 24, 2002 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Bruce Campbell, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Why patent African violets? What does it cost? What are the legal implications of patenting plant material? These and other questions will be answered officially by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in Washington, DC. This will be an exceptional opportunity permitted because our convention site is near the seat of government.

## 5. Growing for Show; A Panel Discussion

Friday May 24, 2002 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Moderator: Nancy Hayes, Bloomfield, Connecticut

Panelists: Marie Burns, Baltimore, Maryland, Kathy Lahti, Annandale, Minnesota; and Pat Richards, Olathe, Kansas

We are thrilled to bring you three growers who have each won top honors at AVSA annual convention shows as well as many local affiliate shows. Under the guidance of Nancy Hayes, veteran grower and convention favorite, they will reveal their techniques and secrets for producing top plants. Attendees will have the opportunity to compare methods and gain insights into what is required to grow exemplary African violets of their own.

## 6. Gesneriads at the Smithsonian

Friday May 24, 2002 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Laurence (Larry) Skog, Vienna, Virginia

Dr. Skog has roots in Minnesota but has traveled extensively to collect gesneriads from Central and South America, China, India, Australia and New Zealand. As part of his research he has authored (formally named and published) one new genus and over 30 new species personally, as well as coauthoring over 40 new species. Further study and publishing continues on other new genera and species. He is currently associated with the Smithsonian Institution as a curator and research scientist and was chairman of the Department of Botany. This highly qualified speaker will share his knowledge of gesneriads to lure attendees into growing more of this interesting plant family.

## 7. The Eastern Arc Mountains: Home of African Violets

Saturday May 25, 2002 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Gerard Hertel, West Chester University

Dr. Hertel has spent an extensive amount of time in East Africa monitoring forest health and forest land conversion. The Eastern Arc Mountains of Kenya and Tanzania are the natural habitat of saintpaulia. He has personally visited the Amboni caves where the very first species was discovered. He will share many pictures and much information regarding this area and let us know what we might do to help protect these habitats. The goal of his project is to make recommendations regarding the bio-diversity of the region and to provide information to the decision makers and villagers in the area. Attendees will go away with a very clear picture of where African violets originated and understand the current needs of the land and the people.

## 8. Advanced Judging Skills:

### Choosing the Best in Horticulture

Saturday May 25, 2002 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Bill Foster, Mesquite, Texas

All AVSA Convention and Affiliate shows use the merit method of judging, which ensures that each entry receives the award it deserves. But when the time comes to choose the Best in Class, or Best in Show, the judges must make some difficult decisions. Bill Foster, former president and continuing Shows and Judges Chairman, will guide judges through the pitfalls and challenges of making these decisions fairly and offer some guidelines. Although this is designed especially for AVSA judges, all are welcome to learn how the process should be done.



# African Violet Society of America, Inc.

56th Annual Convention & Show

May 19 - May 26, 2002 - Hyatt Crystal City - Greater Washington, DC

## Call for 2002 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of The African Violet Society of America, Inc. will be held Saturday, May 25, 2002, at 2:30 p.m., at Hyatt Crystal City, Arlington, VA, for the purpose of **electing Directors** and transacting business that may properly come before The Assembly.

## Call for 2002 Board of Directors Meeting

The African Violet Society of America, Inc., Board of Directors Meetings will be held Wednesday, May 22, 2002, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon at Hyatt Crystal City, Arlington, VA, and Sunday, May 26, 2002, for the purpose of transacting business that may properly come before the Board of Directors.

## Call for 2002 Open Forum Meeting

The 16th annual Open Forum meeting of the Board of Directors of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., will be held Saturday, May 25, 2002, at Hyatt Crystal City, Arlington, VA. This will take place the first twenty minutes of the Annual Meeting. At this time, the Board of Directors of AVSA will welcome any and all AVSA members to come and present any suggestions, ideas, questions, etc.

## Registration For Judging School For New Students & Certificate Renewals

An AVSA judging school will be held on Wednesday, May 22, for AVSA members who wish to take their first judge's school and for judges who wish to renew their certificates. The lecture will be from 7:30 am - 12:00 noon and must be attended in order to take the exam. The test begins at 2:00 pm. The registration fee is \$7.50, payable to AVSA. AVSA membership cards must be presented at the door. Proof of three blue ribbons is required.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ AVSA Membership # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Judging Status: Student (1st exam) \_\_\_\_\_ Student Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Advanced \_\_\_\_\_ Auditing \_\_\_\_\_

Complete this form (or facsimile) and mail, with registration fee of \$7.50 (make check payable to AVSA in U.S. dollars) to Paul Kroll, 4325 Two Rod Road, East Aurora, NY 14052-9693. The test will be based on latest edition of the AVSA Handbook, the 1998 printing plus any updates. **Registration for the judging school must be received by April 30, 2002.**

## Attention Judges

All Advanced, Senior, and Master Judges are eligible to judge the convention show. If you would like to judge, please complete the form and mail to: Bill Foster, AVSA Shows & Judges Chairman, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150-2121. **These must be postmarked no later than April 25, 2002.** If you plan to exhibit in the show, please indicate which classes you plan to enter. **Do Not** serve on entries, classification, or placement if you apply to judge. Applications received after April 30, 2002 will be filed and used in the event of cancellations and/or vacancies. If selected to judge you will be notified of your assignment.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ AVSA Membership # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. # \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Classes entered \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Judge: \_\_\_\_\_ Advanced \_\_\_\_\_ Senior \_\_\_\_\_ Master \_\_\_\_\_ AGGS \_\_\_\_\_ Nat'l Council \_\_\_\_\_

Experience: \_\_\_\_\_ Minis/Semis \_\_\_\_\_ Trailers \_\_\_\_\_ Species \_\_\_\_\_ Design \_\_\_\_\_ Commercial \_\_\_\_\_

## Attention Judges Clerks

Student and Advanced Judges are invited to serve as clerks for the convention show. Any vacancies will be filled with AVSA members. This means that AVSA members may apply to serve as clerks; however, judges will be given first preference. Any remaining positions will be filled by AVSA members in the order in which the applications are received. All clerks will receive notification of their assignment. If you would like to clerk, please complete this form below and mail to: Bill Foster, AVSA Shows & Judges Chairman, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150-2121. **These applications must be postmarked no later than April 25, 2002.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ AVSA Membership # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. # \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Student Judge \_\_\_\_\_ Advanced Judge \_\_\_\_\_ AVSA Member \_\_\_\_\_

## Design Division Reservations

(Please type or print)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. # \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to enter the following design classes: (Limit eight, **excluding container gardens**)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_\_ 6. \_\_\_\_\_ 7. \_\_\_\_\_ 8. \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Choices: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to enter the following Container Gardens classes: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_  
**Entries will be accepted ONLY, if postmarked March 8, 2002 or later by regular mail. No telephone reservations will be accepted.** Reservations will be on a first come basis. Send reservations **no later than April 28, 2002**, to: Susan Hanna, 472 Store Road, Harleysville, PA 19438.

# AVSA's 56th Annual Convention & Show

## "Mr. Violet Goes to Washington"

May 19 - May 26, 2002 - Hyatt Crystal City - Arlington, Virginia

### AVSA Convention Registration Form

**NOTE: Each person registering must use a separate form. Xerox copies may be used if more are needed.**

Please send this completed pre-registration form with your check, money order or credit card number made out in the appropriate amount to the Washington, DC Convention Account. Mail to: The AVSA Office - 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702. Refunds will be made upon written request only if received by **April 26, 2002**. There will be a **\$5.00 paperwork fee charged for cancellations**. Registrations received after April 26, 2002 will be \$65.00. Following receipt of your Registration, you will receive confirmation from the AVSA Office which includes your convention registration, tours, presentations, meal information and any registration materials being mailed in advance of the convention.

Membership #	Last Name	First	Initial	Area Code/Phone #
Street or P.O. Box	Apt. #	City/State	Zip	

Names of Spouse/Guests/Children if attending Convention \_\_\_\_\_

**(Please remember to use a separate form for spouse, guest or child attending. Xerox copies may be used)**

#### PLEASE CIRCLE APPROPRIATE STATUS:

- |                          |                  |                            |                         |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| (A) Individual Member    | (E) Judge        | (H) Commercial Member      | (K) Board Member        |
| (B) Life member          | (F) Senior Judge | (I) Judging School Teacher | (L) Affiliate President |
| (C) Honorary Life Member | (G) Master Judge | (J) Bronze Medal Winner    | (M) Non-Member (guest)  |
| (D) Associate Member     |                  |                            |                         |

This is my (#) \_\_\_\_\_ convention

Name to go on Badge \_\_\_\_\_

(Note: If you are a Commercial Member and want your business name to appear, please write it in also.)

\_\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_\_ No

**Is there any possibility that you might bring horticultural exhibits?  
(If yes, entries information will be mailed to you.)**

In case of emergency, whom should be notified? \_\_\_\_\_

Name

Relationship	Address	City/State	Area Code/Phone #
--------------	---------	------------	-------------------

#### TRAVEL BY:

Personal Car \_\_\_\_\_

Rental Car \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

RV \_\_\_\_\_

Plane \_\_\_\_\_

Airline \_\_\_\_\_

if by plane, arrival day/date and time \_\_\_\_\_

if by plane, departure day/date and time \_\_\_\_\_

#### ACCOMMODATIONS:

Hyatt Crystal City \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

**After April 26, 2002, each registration will be \$65.00 or \$68.00 respectively.**

Convention Registration:

AVSA or Associate Member (Early Bird Discount)	\$40.00	\$ _____
AVSA or Associate Member (after April 26, 2002)	\$65.00	\$ _____
Non-Member (Guest) (Early Bird Discount)	\$43.00	\$ _____
Non-Member (Guest) (after April 26, 2002)	\$68.00	\$ _____
International Member (Early Bird Discount)	\$35.00	\$ _____
International Member (after April 26, 2002)	\$60.00	\$ _____

TOTAL REGISTRATION \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Meals:

____ 1. Wed.	"Meet the Board of Director's" Luncheon (Tuna Croissant) . . . . .	\$34.50	\$ _____
____ 2. Thurs.	Teachers' Breakfast (Scrambled Egg & Ham) . . . . .	\$26.50	\$ _____
____ 3. Fri.	Commercial Luncheon (Grilled Chicken Breast) . . . . .	\$34.00	\$ _____
____ 4. Fri.	Opening Dinner (Cornish Game Hen) . . . . .	\$49.00	\$ _____
____ 5. Sat.	Judges' Breakfast (Traditional Breakfast) . . . . .	\$26.00	\$ _____
____ 6. Sat.	Luncheon/Auction (Lasagna) . . . . .	\$36.00	\$ _____
____ 7. Sat.	Installation Banquet (Roasted Chicken & Grilled Salmon) . . . . .	\$57.00	\$ _____

TOTAL MEALS \$ \_\_\_\_\_

PERSONS WISHING TO BE SEATED TOGETHER AT MEAL FUNCTIONS (LIMIT 10 PER TABLE) **MUST** MAIL REGISTRATIONS TO THE AVSA OFFICE, IN THE SAME ENVELOPE, **BEFORE April 26, 2002. THERE CAN BE NO EXCEPTIONS. RESERVATIONS RECEIVED BEFORE APRIL 26, 2002 WILL RECEIVE TABLE ASSIGNMENTS. ALL RESERVATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THAT DATE WILL HAVE UNRESERVED SEATING AT MEAL FUNCTIONS.** SPECIAL MEAL REQUESTS MUST BE MADE TO THE AVSA OFFICE AT TIME OF REGISTRATION. REQUESTS MADE DIRECTLY TO HOTEL **WILL NOT BE HONORED.**

**TOURS: (meals are included for Tours 5, and 6)**

___ 1.	Mon., May 20	Potomac Mills Mall . . . . .	\$17.00	\$ _____
___ 2.	Mon., May 20	Washington, DC . . . . .	\$23.00	\$ _____
___ 3.	Tues., May 21	Arlington County . . . . .	\$24.00	\$ _____
___ 4.	Tues., May 21	Sunset Parade . . . . .	\$22.00	\$ _____
___ 5.	Wed., May 22	Mount Vernon . . . . .	\$51.00	\$ _____
___ 6.	Wed., May 22	West End Dinner Theater . . . . .	\$50.00	\$ _____
___ 7.	Thurs., May 23	Manassas Battlefield . . . . .	\$26.00	\$ _____
___ 8.	Thurs., May 23	Mount Vernon . . . . .	\$33.00	\$ _____

TOTAL TOURS \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(No meal selections required for tours)

Thursday, May 23, 2002

- \_\_\_ 7:00 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. Social Hour, Slides of 55th Chicago Convention and New Introductions  
 \_\_\_ 8:15 p.m. - 9:45 p.m. "Let Me Tell You About My Violets: A Grower's Forum"  
 Moderator: Jack Wilson  
 Panelists: Dr. Ralph Robinson, Doris Brownlie, Kent Stork and Pat Hancock

**PRESENTATIONS:** (Please check those presentations which you wish to attend)

Friday, May 24, 2002

- \_\_\_ 1. 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. "Hands on Dish Gardens" by Olive Ma Robinson, Karen Cichocki and Paul Kroll  
 \_\_\_ 2. 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. "Celebrating *Superman's* 50th Birthday" by Ethel Champion  
 \_\_\_ 3. 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. "Hands on Dish Gardens" by Olive Ma Robinson, Karen Cichocki and Paul Kroll  
 \_\_\_ 4. 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. "Patenting African Violets" by Bruce Campbell  
 \_\_\_ 5. 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. "Growing for Show" Panel Discussion  
 Moderator: Nancy Hayes  
 Panelists: Marie Burns, Kathy Lahti, Pat Richards  
 \_\_\_ 6. 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. "Gesneriads at the Smithsonian" by Laurence Skog

Saturday, May 25, 2002

- \_\_\_ 7. 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. "The Eastern Arc Mountains: Home of African Violets" by Gerard Hertel  
 \_\_\_ 8. 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. "Advanced Judging Skills: Choosing the Best in Horticulture" by Bill Foster

**PAYMENT:**

Total Registration \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total Meals \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total Tours \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL  
 PAYMENT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please double check to ensure all numbers are listed correctly.**

Check one:

- ☐ Visa # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Expires \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ MasterCard # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Expires \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check or Money Order Enclosed

**NOTE: Cancellations must be received**

by April 26, 2002 to be entitled to a refund.

There will be a \$5.00 fee for all cancellations.

**Send payment and completed registration form to:**

**Convention Registration**

**AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702-1722**

**(409) 839-4725**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature (If using card)

## AVSA 2002 Washington, DC Convention Growers Forum

"Let Me Tell you About My Violets" . . . Grower's Forum

Thursday, May 23, 2002. . . . . 8:15 p.m.

Moderator . . . . . Jack Wilson

Panelists . . . . . Dr. Ralph Robinson, Doris Brownlie

Kent Stork and Pat Hancock

This is YOUR opportunity to "ask the experts". If you have questions about any aspect of growing African violets and other Gesneriads - horticulture, pests, diseases, hybridizing, soils, chemicals, planting techniques and perhaps even using African violets in designs - don't miss this opportunity. This open forum is always a favorite among convention-goers.



# Hotel Reservation

## 2002 AVSA Convention Show and Annual Membership Meeting

Please mail to:  
Hyatt Regency Crystal City  
2799 Jefferson Davis Highway  
Arlington, VA 22202  
1-800-233-1234  
1-703-418-1234

The African Violet Society of America, Inc.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Sharing Room with \_\_\_\_\_

Make check or money order payable to **Hyatt Regency Crystal City**. Do not send currency. To confirm your reservations, the hotel accepts any one of the following as means of payment:

\_\_\_\_ One Night's Deposit Enclosed      \_\_\_\_ MasterCard  
\_\_\_\_ American Express      \_\_\_\_ Visa

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Deposit refundable if reservation is cancelled 24 hours prior to the date of scheduled arrival. To cancel, phone - **Hyatt Crystal City**. Cancellations must be made 24 hours prior to check-in. Phone number: 1-703-418-1234 ask for Reservation Department. Identify that you are with the African Violet Society of America.

Room Rate: \$135.00 + Tax of 9.75% (up to 4 persons per room)

Accommodations requested: \_\_\_\_\_ number of persons in room

\_\_\_\_ Single      Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(check in 3:00 pm)

\_\_\_\_ Double (two persons)  
\_\_\_\_ Triple (three persons)      Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(check out by 12:00 noon)

\_\_\_\_ Quad (four persons)  
\_\_\_\_ Smoking      \_\_\_\_ Non Smoking

Bed types available: double, king (upon request)

Reservations **must** be received by: **April 26, 2002**

The AVSA reserved room block will be released after this date.

The hotel charges an early check out fee of \$50.00. If you are changing your check-out day, notify the hotel at time of check in.

## TRANSPORTATION INFO

If you are arriving at Reagan National Airport, it is about 5 minutes from the hotel. The hotel provides a complimentary shuttle to / from the hotel and National Airport. Call for pickup.

If you are arriving at Dulles International Airport, there is a Super Shuttle available for \$24.00. Or, if a large number of people are arriving together, contact the hotel for price information for the hotel shuttle.

If you are driving, there is a parking charge. Our group is being charged 50% of the regular rate, which is currently \$20.00 per day, if you are a guest of the hotel. If you are not a guest of the hotel, you will have to pay the prevailing hourly rate, without a discount.

## IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO DRIVE YOUR RV ...

Contact the AVSA Office  
for information

# 1-800-770-2872

## HOSTS – HOSTESSES

If you would like to help at the Washington, DC Convention by serving as a host or hostess in the show room, please send the information listed below by April 26, 2002 to: **Lynda Fairchild, 1779 Lafayette Dr., Hampton, VA 23664, (757) 851-3449, frank4lyn@aol.com**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

---

### IS ROOM SHARING FOR YOU?

Room sharing has become very successful. Are you interested in making your expenses less by sharing a room with someone? We offer this service to anyone interested.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\$135.00

Plus 9.75% Tax

Non-Smoker \_\_\_\_\_ Smoker \_\_\_\_\_ No Preference \_\_\_\_\_

Age: Under 25 \_\_\_\_\_ 26-50 \_\_\_\_\_ 51 and Over \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Any other considerations: \_\_\_\_\_

When you have considered your plans and wish to share a sleeping room with someone, PLEASE contact the AVSA Office immediately.

**All requests must be made by April 10, 2002** so we may contact all interested "violet friends" and meet the deadline for hotel reservations which is April 26, 2002.

Please send requests to: AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702-1722. Phone (800) 770-2872

#### DIRECTIONS TO THE HYATT REGENCY CRYSTAL CITY

##### FROM GEORGETOWN

1. Take M Street across Key Bridge
2. Turn left at second light (Lee Highway)
3. Go through light for I-66 East, take Exit 75 for Rt. 110 South
4. Rt. 110 South for 4 miles, turns into Rt. 1 South
5. Turn left onto 27th Street, Hotel is on the left

##### FROM DULLES AIRPORT AND I-66 WEST

1. Take I-66 East
2. Take Exit 75 (Rt. 110 South)
3. Rt. 110 South for 4 miles, turns into Rt. 1 South
4. Rt. 1 South to 4th stop light (27th Street)
5. Turn left onto 27th Street, Hotel is on the left

##### FROM RICHMOND

1. Take I-95 North to I-395 North
2. Exit 7A (Glebe Road South)
3. Glebe Road South to 5th stop light (approximately 2 miles)

4. Turn left on Jefferson Davis Highway (Rt. 1 North)
5. Turn left onto 27th Street, Hotel is on the left

##### FROM BALTIMORE AND I-95 SOUTH

1. Take I-95 South over Woodrow Wilson Bridge into Virginia
2. Exit 1 (first exit off of bridge), this is a three part exit
3. Take middle exit (Rt. 1 North)
4. Travel approximately 5 miles North
5. Turn left onto 27th Street, Hotel is on the left

##### FROM MARYLAND AND I-270 NORTH

1. Take I-495 South across American Legion Bridge into Virginia
2. Exit onto George Washington Parkway
3. Travel about 10 miles South
4. Exit at National Airport, stay in right lane; follow signs to Crystal City Rt. 1 South
5. Take Rt. 1 South exit; turn left at first light (27th Street), Hotel is on the left



Photo Credit: Pat Hancock

## ***Buckeye Damask Rose***

*Hybridized & Exhibited by:*

***Pat Hancock***

*Large*

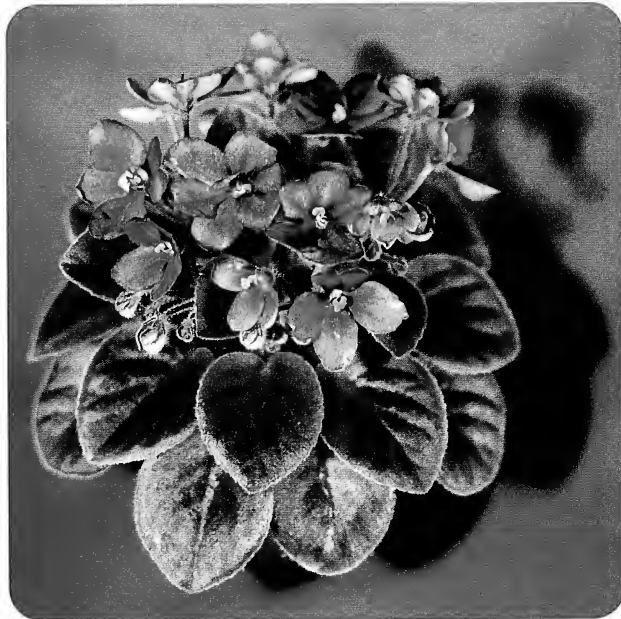


Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

## ***Rob's Doohickey***

*Rob's Violets*

*Hybridized by: R. Robinson*

*Miniature*

# Separating the Plantlets

by Carolyn Conlin-Lane

I personally pot up plantlets when I have the time (a very rare commodity at my house!). As long as they are a size that YOU are comfortable with, you can go ahead with the procedure. I don't believe in waiting until they reach a precise size. I tend to work with them while still small - for semis, the leaves may even be smaller than 1/8" long.

Often there will only be two or three tiny leaves. I knock the whole works out of the pot and separate each baby plant from the parent leaf. I do this carefully by hand - no tools. If the plantlet is a good size and has a reasonable amount of roots, then it goes directly into a 2 1/4" or 2 1/2" pot. Otherwise, a medicine cup or creamer is used.

Prior to potting up, I make sure that the creamers and cups have drainage holes poked into them. I sort the plantlets out, and select the best looking three to keep for myself. Even at this tiny stage, you can start to see differences in growth habit. I usually pot up most of the rest to take to club meetings for our raffle table, or I grow them for the show sales table. The truly tiny or deformed ones get discarded.

My cuttings are all grown covered in community flats, chiefly to minimize the time that is required to care for them. I usually cover my newly potted up plants for a short time in order to allow them to get established.

Plants potted in the smallest containers usually remain covered until ready to graduate to a larger pot. They are usually ready quite quickly, but can be held over in the small containers for quite a long period until space comes free for them on the shelves.

I don't normally use a community pot approach unless I

intend for the plant to continue to grow that way (e.g. I am putting down *Columnnea* or *Episcia* tip cuttings) or I am dealing with an extremely rare plant that is worth babying even the tiniest of plantlets. I also do not find that Rootone is necessary, either for repotting or for the original process of putting down a leaf. If the plantlet is entirely without roots, I put a small portion of leaf start mix (perlite, vermiculite and a bit of charcoal) in the center of the pot that has been filled with soil. I then pin the plantlet to the surface of the mix using a halved plastic coated paper clip. This plant will remain covered until it has established its root system.

As for leaf petioles continuing to grow - yes, they do sometimes do that! The problem there is that the leaf is concentrating on growing and not on producing babies. The best approach is to cut a small portion of the top of the leaf off with a sharp blade. This can either be done after the leaf has rooted, or right from the start when you put the leaf down. A technique that I find helps with large African violet leaves is to take a sharp blade and cut the leaf down to semiminature size just prior to putting it down. This cuts down on the room required for the cutting and also minimizes the shade cast by the leaf. If this is done with a very sharp knife, the chance of leaf rot will be lessened.

I also typically discard the parent leaf after removing the babies. The only time I attempt to salvage it is if it is a particularly rare or desirable variety.

From *Chatter*, Journal of the AVS of Canada



## AVSA Affiliates

Bev Promersberger - *Affiliate Committee*

7992 Otis Way

Pensacola, FL 32506

Promers22@hotmail.com



**Congratulations and welcome to the following new affiliates:**

### **Coastal Plains African Violet Club**

President - Lucille Prutsman

2836 N NC Highway 58

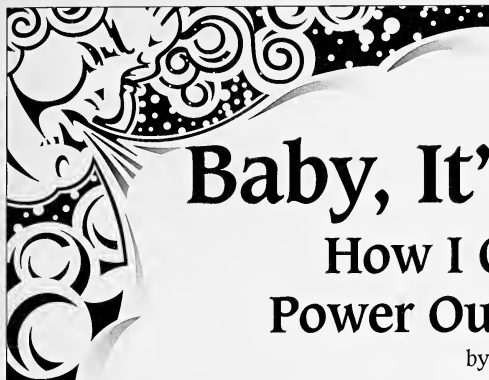
Nashville, NC 27856-9010

### **Mountain State African Violets**

President - Marilyn Rogers

PO Box 569

Summersville, WV 26651-0569



# Baby, It's Cold Inside

## How I Coped with the Power Outage Last Winter

by Sharon Rosenzweig

It's March 4, 2001 and they are predicting the "Storm of the Season" over the course of the next two days. It is inevitable that the power will go out, the only question being when and for how long?

### Sunday

The preparation begins. Remove all the plants from their wick reservoirs and place on newspaper to dry out as much as possible.

### Monday

Keep listening to the weather report, remain optimistic.

### Tuesday

Power goes out at 4 am. At 9 am, the thermostat in the plant room is reading 62 degrees. Begin to identify the warmest locations in the house. In front of the fireplace, the small downstairs bathroom, the upstairs laundry room, and inside the wall oven all seem like reasonable places. Begin moving plants closer to the fireplace. I wonder, are plants like people - will they stay warmer if they are crowded together?

By early afternoon, the temperature is down to 60 degrees. Time to build a fire and move as many plants as possible around the fireplace. This feels nice and cozy - the whole family together: my husband, the plants and I. Begin collecting boxes, plastic tubs, insulated coolers, anything to transport plants to a warmer location if evacuation becomes necessary.

By early evening, with the thermostat reading 55, start heating pots of water on the gas grill. Place a large one in the downstairs bathroom and a small one inside the oven. Put scatter rugs under the plants because the tile floor is getting cold. Place two cookie trays of plants in the oven. Please do not let me forget they are in there! Light big round candles and place them on the lowest shelves of the plant stands to warm the plants that will have to be left in place on the upper shelves.

After getting Chinese takeout and with the temperature down to 50 degrees, make plans to sleep at my daughter's

house. Now comes the task of packing up the plants. Taking care not to break leaves or flowers, fill all available containers. About half of my collection will spend the night in the cold, the rest will come with us to warmer quarters.

### Wednesday

Return home in the morning. Power is still out. Should I be optimistic that power will return soon and leave the remaining plants in place? Noooo - I will take them to work with me. Using some cartons from the attic, I schlep the rest of the plants to work. This causes quite a stir as coworkers stop by to ask if I am selling plants. They are disappointed when I say no. Return home in the evening, power is still out.

### Thursday

I am comforted at work having all my "children" near me. Power is restored when I get home. Happily proceed to recover my violets from all of their hiding places. Will pick up the transported plants over the weekend.

### Saturday

Retrieve the displaced plants from my daughter's house. Retrieve plants from work; accidentally set off the office alarm.

### Sunday

Everything is back to normal, almost. My husband is doing laundry and discovers one last tray of violets in the dryer before he throws in the wet clothes!

### Overall Effects of the Experience

The violets are no worse for the wear, but I am exhausted from the stress of it all. After seeing my plants in the office, several coworkers bring me their violets to nurse back to health or into bloom. We have a plant hospital set up on the east windowsill.

If another big storm hits in the future, would I do this again? Probably.

# Showcase

## *Buckeye Love's Caress*

*Hybridized & Grown by:*

*Pat Hancock*

*Large*



*Photo Credit: Pat Hancock*

## *Merrilee*

*Best Miniature*

*AVS of Canada 2001*

*National Show*

*Exhibited by: Mario Santopietro*

*Hybridized by: Haywood*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*

## *Seedling 9902WMR07*

*2nd Best Commercial African Violet  
AVS of Canada 2001 National Show  
Exhibited by: Olive Ma Robinson*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*

## *Alliance*

*Exhibited & Hybridized by:  
Denis Croteau  
Standard*

# GROWING, SHOWING AND JUDGING SAINTPAULIA SPECIES

## Part I

by Barb Pershing

I have been interested in growing and showing *Saintpaulia* species for several years and have learned a great deal through "trial and error" and reading everything I could find on growing species. I have observed that the species classes at affiliate shows have very few entries. This started me wondering about the interest over the years of AVSA in growing and showing *Saintpaulia* species. I turned to my collection of the African Violet Magazine for information.

### Historical perspective

There was far more interest in growing and showing the new African violet cultivars in the early years of AVSA than in growing and showing *Saintpaulia* species plants. The early issues of the African Violet Magazine provided very little information on growing or showing species plants.

The first mention of *Saintpaulia* species in the African Violet Magazine was a short comment in Vol. 1 No. 2 [1947] entitled 'Other Species': "Many of us may have come to think that *Saintpaulia ionantha* is the one and only species of African violet. But this is not the case according to the descriptive notes that appeared in a recent issue of the *Gardners Chronicle* in England." The short paragraph mentioned *S. diplotricha*, *S. tonwensis*, *S. obicularis*, and *S. grotei*, and gave a brief description of each.

The next mention of *Saintpaulia* species was a short article in Vol. 2, No. 1 [1948], 'Import from Africa,' which stated that "Mr. Evan Roberts, East Lansing, MI, has been fortunate in securing in Africa and importing into this country representative plants of three new species of African violets. . . ; he hopes to have plants of these new species and new varieties ready for distribution some time next year and articles in the magazine so members of the society may have the opportunity of acquainting themselves with these rare plants. There are only a few species of African violets, probably only nine, while there are over a hundred varieties of Violets." A footnote to this article explained the difference between species and new varieties.

Harvey Cox and Evan Roberts wrote several articles in the early 1950's describing several of the *Saintpaulia* species. Mr. Roberts gave a presentation at the fifth convention of the African Violet Society of America in Dayton, Ohio, April 1951. He accompanied his presentation with slides, the text of which was printed in the September 1951 AVM. Several articles followed in the 1950's informing AVSA mem-

bers of the history of the discovery of *Saintpaulia*, and as new species were discovered, descriptions and botanical information for each.

There was no class for species in the first show schedule for the AVSA National Show printed in the March 1952 AVM. The show results in the September 1952 AVM listed no species awards in the show results. A class (Class 15) for Specimen African violet species was included in the Show Schedule for the 1954 AVSA National Show printed in the December 1953 AVM. The 1955 show results reported blue ribbons for *S. obicularis* and *S. grotei*. This was the first time that species plants were included in the AVSA Show as a separate class.

In March 1961, Carolyn Rector introduced an article, 'Some Notes on Saintpaulia Species,' with the comment that, "*Saintpaulia* species are fascinating but some of them are difficult to obtain and still more difficult to grow. This only makes them more interesting." The article described some crosses that she had made using the species plants with some of the newer varieties and provided some tips she had learned from growing *S. diplotricha*, *S. shumensis*, and *S. goetzeana*. This was the first article to date that provided information for growers. An article in the June 1962 AVM by Marian Milhaus gave the readers some tips on her "Summer Growing Experience" with the species plants.

There was no mention of showing or judging species plants in the AVM from 1947 to 1967, and there was little mention of any kind of the species from 1962 to 1969.

### Educational exhibits

Interest in the species grew as educational displays at AVSA Conventions gave members an opportunity to see the "ancestors of our beautiful modern hybrids." (Mrs. G. Hudson, "*Saintpaulia* Species and I," AVM, Vol. 23 No.1, 1969). The first educational exhibit of species plants was at the 1967 Convention in Boston. Mrs. Hudson wrote a series of articles in 1969 and 1970 describing each of the species. She ended the series with the statement, "I feel that having a few well grown *Saintpaulia* species entries in our African Violet shows is not only educational but keeps before our members and the public our heritage from the *Saintpaulia* species." (Vol. 23 No. 4, 1970).

Anne Tinari, reported in "*Saintpaulia* Species Create Interest," (January 1969 AVM, Vol. 22 No.2), "At the National Convention, held in St. Louis, attending members



were able to view a goodly number of species in the educational classes." Members of the St. Louis club groomed and showed many of the following: *S. confusa*, *S. nitida*, *S. goetzeana*, *S. grandifolia*, *S. pendula*, and *S. difficilis*.

Ms. E. Cramond, ("You Have to Grow 'Em to Know 'Em", September 1973 AVM) a lifetime judge, made the statement referring to judging *Saintpaulia* species: "If you are a qualified African violet judge, you'd better be growing them. How else could you possibly know what a really good plant should look like?" She had never grown 'even one' species plant when faced with judging a species class in 1961. The other judges were in the same boat. After she grew them, and knew them, she felt much better about judging them. She ended her article: "The point I'm trying to make is this - I do not believe a judge can do justice to any class of plants if that judge has never grown them. I feel I would have missed something important if I hadn't grown Species."

The Educational Committee for the 31st Annual AVSA Convention/Show (1977) endeavored to present the most complete collection of *Saintpaulia* species ever assembled at a convention/show. (Edd Stretch Smith, "Species Collection Seen at Convention, AVM, January 1978).

There have been approximately 85 articles on *Saintpaulia* species in the African Violet Magazine since 1947. Numerous articles in the past 25+ years [1975 - present] have repeated the history of *Saintpaulia*, described each of the species, and made suggestions for growing the different species. Our awareness and information of the species has been greatly enhanced by the knowledge and research that Dr. Jeff Smith has reported in numerous articles in the last several years. Of particular interest to anyone who is growing species are Dr. Smith's articles "Growing the Cool Species" (March-April 1996) and "Growing the Warm Species" (May-June 1996).



## Reverse Osmosis

by Allison R. Brigham

Activated carbon removes organic compounds in the water; the organic molecules are adsorbed onto the surfaces of the carbon particles. Usually in public water supplies, these organic molecules are taste-and-odor producing chemicals, but any organic molecule (for example, pesticides) is fair game for removal as long as there are available sites on the carbon.

If your public water supply is derived from surface water such as a reservoir, the taste-and-odor producing chemicals are frequently the results of blooms of various species of algae throughout the year. I have a psychologist friend in the Northeast who keeps track of the algae by the taste of his drinking water. Strange...

In a nutshell--in reverse osmosis, membranes of varying porosities remove cations (such as sodium, calcium, magnesium or iron--those ions that have positive charges) and anions (for example, nitrate, sulfate, chloride--ions with negative charges) mechanically. Additional water is used to clean

(backwash...) the membrane to maintain its filtering efficiency. So, maintenance of RO systems is important because it really affects performance.

The principal contributors to hardness in water are calcium and magnesium cations, and bicarbonate and carbonate anions. These chemicals in water are the primary buffering agents (buffering here referring to maintaining a more stable and higher pH). If some of the ions contributing to buffering the water are removed by your 'filtration' system, the pH of the water will be affected and more likely to fluctuate diurnally. Adjusting the pH of water with a higher hardness or total alkalinity requires more acid or base (more H or OH ions) than altering the pH of a water with low (<80 mg/l as> calcium carbonate) hardness or alkalinity because of the busy carbonate-bicarbonate ions! Comparably, one of the horrific effects of acid rain upon soils is the loss of these buffering ions. Long-term effects as a result of the chemical changes in the soil affect the vegetation.

**VISIT AVSA'S WEBSITE:**  
**[www.AVSA.org](http://www.AVSA.org)**



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

## ***"Blame the Cow"***

*Best Plant Arrangement*

*Best Design*

*2001 AVSA National Show*

*Exhibited by: **Fran Russom***

# What's Your pH?

by Carol Schreck

Soil pH is a very important factor in growing good plants. Simply stated, pH is a symbol which denotes the acidity or alkalinity of a substance. The pH scale runs from 1 to 14, with 7.0 being neutral. As the numbers go lower, there is increasing acidity. Higher numbers indicate increasing alkalinity.

The average plant prefers a slightly acid soil with a pH reading of about 6.5, but many plants have specific requirements and it would be good to have information about a plant's needs if we are going to grow "show quality" specimen plants. If we don't provide what a plant needs as far as pH rating, the soil will be out of balance with its requirements and some nutritional elements may be unavailable.

Most fertilizers are mildly acid. As peat moss decomposes, it becomes increasingly acid with

age. To counteract this, lime can be added to your soil mix unless your water is highly alkaline. To determine your water pH, call your local utility company. If you have well water, have it tested by the Agricultural Extension Service of your state university. There may be similar services available through Canadian universities. Or, you can go to a store that sells tropical fish. They

will have rolls of litmus paper with directions for its use and a color chart for comparison. This is a crude test, but it is adequate for the average home grower. Or, you can buy a Sudbury Soil Test Kit that is intended for testing soil. I have not seen this kit, but recently learned (from Liz Day, Gesneriophiles) about one from the Hach Company (telephone 800-227-4224) called "the pH narrow range phenol red test cube." It costs about \$25.00 (U.S.) for the cube which contains fifty pre-measured packets of material for testing. To use it, you mix a slurry of potting soil with distilled water in a clean glass and let it sit an hour. Then, decant the water into the pH test tube. The cube comes with transparent color comparison pieces so that you won't be in doubt about the color you are seeing. Examples of pH are: Ammonia and Lava Soap have a pH of 10, baking soda is 8, aspirin is 5 and lemon juice and vinegar are 4. Upon seeing the above numbers, you will better understand why charcoal (not the kind used for cooking) is such a good additive to your potting soil. Charcoal will absorb up to 80 times its own bulk in ammonia.

Dale Martens uses a pH testing kit from the Wal-Mart tropical fish department that also had pH-UP and pH-DOWN chemicals to use for correcting the pH as she watered. Then she tested the water with the variety of fertilizers that she uses and made the necessary corrections. Several weeks later, she had the idea to test the water standing in her plant reservoirs. That water tested pH 6.2 which alerted her to the fact that she should quit using the pH DOWN chemical and that she should leach her plants at least every eight weeks.

Plants express their well-being with a healthy foliage color. If they are pale, it can indicate a hunger for one of the basic nutritional elements. These are nitrogen, phosphorus, potash, and/or the trace elements of iron, boron, calcium, magnesium,

zinc, sulphur or manganese. If the soil pH is wrong for that particular plant, then it is unable to utilize the fertilizer you give it. If soil is too acid, phosphorus is unavailable to the plant.

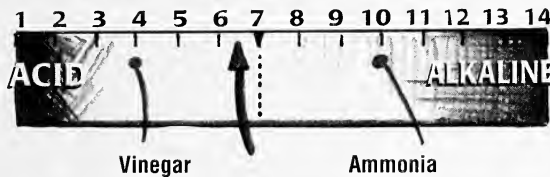
To correct the acidity and make the phosphorus again available, you can add one teaspoon dolomite lime and one teaspoon Epsom Salts (magnesium sulphate) to each gallon of water and use for several waterings. This will

raise the pH of the potting mixture. Be sure to shake this mixture often when using it because the lime is slow to dissolve. Finely ground limestone, scratched into the top of the soil and watered will work, but because the lime dissolves so slowly, it will take several months to raise the pH by even one point. If your soil should become too alkaline (not likely to happen unless you have overlimed it), then you can water with one teaspoon aluminum sulphate to each gallon of water to lower the pH.

Some gesneriad species like *Chirita* and *Gesneria* are found growing on limestone cliffs so you won't be overdoing it if you give them as much as four tablespoons of lime to a gallon of soil mix. When buying lime, be sure that you get dolomite lime which will also add calcium and magnesium to the soil. Do NOT get hydrated lime! It is very fast acting and is sure to burn your plants.

From *African Violet and Gesneriad News*

## The pH Scale



**Many gesneriads  
prefer a soil mix  
with a pH reading  
of about 6.5**

# Vintage Violets



**Barbara Elkin**  
*Vintage Violets Committee*  
 2855 Gayle Lane  
 Auburn, CA 95602-9674  
 email: [bjabar@earthlink.net](mailto:bjabar@earthlink.net)

Due to this big AVSA Most Wanted List this message is going to be very short. I did want to thank all of you that have shared your Vintage Violets. Your generosity has been overwhelming.

Remember: when someone shares a variety with you, please, always return the postage, asked for or not.

Please carefully read the following names on the AVSA Most Wanted List. There are people out there looking for these plants. If you have one of them and wish to share,

## Many Thanks

please drop me a line or E-Mail me with the information. You would be making someone very happy.

I did receive a note from the AVS of Denver. They are anxiously looking for any of Ella Kiesling hybrids. Ella at 90+, is a active member of that club and everyone would like to grow them again.

Interested in Wasp Varieties? Visit this web site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Loveforwasps>.

## AVSA Most Wanted Vintage Violets Our Members Are Seeking

Ace of Cedar Rapids  
 Adele  
 Adeline Krogman  
 Admiral Amazon  
 Aglitter  
 Albert The Second  
 Ablaze  
 Albino Blue Eyes  
 Aliane  
 Alice Blue Gown  
 Alice Marie  
 Alice's Cochise  
 Alice's White Xmas  
 Amazon Pink Delite  
 Amazon Pink Luster  
 America  
 American  
 Amethyst Sparks  
 Anafair  
 Andante  
 Andy Griffiths  
 Anna Therese  
 Anne's Favorite Sport  
 Antique Elegance  
 Antique Mahogany  
 Apache Campfire  
 Apple Valley  
 Apricot Frost  
 Arabesque  
 Arpege  
 Artic Blizzard  
 Athena  
 Atlantic City  
 Audrey  
 Aunt Clara  
 Autumn Glow  
 Autumn Halo  
 Autumn Russett  
 Azure Beauty

Azure Trinket  
 Baby Blue  
 Baby Girl Spoon  
 Baby Helen  
 Baby Pink  
 Baby's Lace  
 Bagdad  
 Baker's Hot Lips  
 Ballet Carla  
 Ballet Eva  
 Ballet Grace  
 Ballet Helga  
 Ballet Inga  
 Ballet Meta  
 Bashful Beauty  
 Bavaria  
 Becky's Gypsy Trail  
 Bee Lee Tee  
 Belle's Spring Song  
 Behnke Boy  
 Benjamin  
 Bergen Strawberry  
 Sherbert  
 Bernice  
 Billy "Crash" Craddock  
 Bing Cherry  
 Black Gold  
 Black Velvet  
 Black Waves  
 Blazing  
 Blizzard  
 Blue Albino Girl  
 Blueberry Ruffles  
 Blue Bonnet  
 Blue Bouquet  
 Blue Buttercup  
 Blue Dart  
 Blue Fandango  
 Blue Fling

Blue Heiress  
 Blue Le Fleur  
 Blue Morning Glory  
 Blue Nymph (Standard)  
 Blue Parade  
 Blue Peak  
 Blue Reverie  
 Blue Rosette  
 Blue Skies  
 Blue Smoke  
 Blue Velvet  
 Blue Warrior  
 Blue Wren  
 Bobby  
 Bonnie Lassy  
 Boyce Edens  
 Brilliant Lady  
 Bryte Angel  
 Bryte Bells  
 Bryte Glitter  
 Bryte Tips  
 Bryte Sensation  
 Bubblin' Over  
 Bud's Strike Me Pink  
 Bulls Eye  
 Bunny Hop  
 Burgundy Bliss  
 Buttercup  
 Butterflies  
 Butterfly White  
 Button Trinket  
 Buttons and Bows  
 Cafe Au Lait  
 Calico Kitten  
 California Cascade  
 California Giant  
 Camellia  
 Camouflage  
 Campanile

CandleLight  
 Candy Dandy  
 Caravan Autumn Blaze  
 Caravan Emerald Ripple  
 Caravan Masterpiece  
 Caravan Pagent  
 Carousel Lady  
 Care Deepley  
 Caribbean  
 Carnival Queen  
 Carillon  
 Casu Small  
 Catherine  
 Cat's Meow  
 Cecile Amblor  
 Cerise  
 Cherish Boy  
 Cherokee Fire  
 Cherokee Rose  
 Cherubini  
 Chicapee  
 Chiffon Wasp  
 Chipper  
 Cinderella (Flower Pot)  
 Cinderella's Slipper  
 Cindy Dardene  
 Circus Circus  
 Circus Clown  
 Clackamas Surprise  
 Clipper  
 Clipper Trail  
 Coconut Fluff  
 Colonial Pink  
 Colorama  
 Colibre  
 Color Splash  
 Columbella  
 Comanche Maid  
 Comet Trail

Conchita  
 Confessions  
 Constance Hansen  
 Constance Hansen Supreme  
 Copy Cat  
 Coral Cascade  
 Coral Cove  
 Coral Radiance  
 Coral Reef  
 Coral Satin  
 Coral Tips  
 Cordarama  
 Cordelia  
 Cornucopia  
 Cotton Bowl  
 Creekside Moonbeams  
 Crested Jewel  
 Crimson Glo  
 Crimsunny  
 Crown of Jewels  
 Crown of Red  
 Crusade Trail  
 Crystal Rose  
 Curley Q  
 Daddy's Girl  
 Dagmar  
 Dainty Doll  
 Dainty Maid  
 Daisy Doll  
 Dallas Pride  
 Dalliance  
 Dansuese  
 Daphne (High Hill)  
 Dark Angel  
 Dark Crystal  
 Dark Eyes  
 Darth Vader  
 Dates Fanfare  
 Dates Jubilee

Dates Masterson Wasp  
 Dean's Velvet One  
 Deborah's Oh My  
 Deep Sea Treasure  
 Deleon Pixie  
 Deleon Posie  
 Desiree  
 Diane  
 Diana Ross  
 Dib's Thrill  
 Dingbat  
 Dippity Do  
 Disco Babe  
 Dominion Rose  
 Donna Lee  
 Donna Lynn  
 Dorothy Gray  
 Do's Jean  
 Double Cherry Soda  
 Double Dutchess  
 Double Mini Orchid  
 Double Orchid  
 Double Orchid Splendor  
 Double Pink Cloud  
 Double Seafoam  
 Double Take  
 Double Uncle Bob  
 Double Velvet Girl  
 Double Wild Rosa  
 Dresden China  
 Dress Blues  
 Duphont Purple  
 Dutchman  
 Dwarf Ionaantha  
 Easter Bonnet  
 Easter Egg  
 Edna Haugh  
 Edna's Joy

Eileen	Half and Half	Lithe Lassie	Mysterium	Ramblin' Rascal	Summer Silk
Eleanor	Hankerchief	Lime Taffy	Nadine	Raspberry Charm Stripe	Summer Spice
Elsie	Hawaiian Eye	Linda's Love	Neon Rainbow	Raspberry Frills	Suncoat Pink Giant
Elsted's Oakleaf Cluster	Heather Mist	Linda's Toy	Niagara's Pink Beacon	Raspberry Go Stripe	Sunday Morning
El Toro Supreme	Heavenly Halo	Little Boy Blue	Nona Weber	Raspberry Sundae	Swan Lake
Emma Lahr	Helen vanPelt Wilson	Little Busy Bee	Nortex's Holiday Haven	Ravenscrest	Sweet Honesty
Emperor Wilhelm	Highbrow	Little Dee	Nosy Bouquet	Ravishing Ruffles	Sweet Lady
Etna	Hobnail Pink	Little Doe	Odyssey	Razzle Dazzle	Sweet Mary
Fairy Image	Holly Go Lightly	Little Geneva Princess	Ohio Bountiful	Red and White	Swiftly Lace
Fairy Prince	Holly Peach	Little Joan	Old Black Joe	Red Carnation	Taffy Pull
Fancy Flirt	Hortenses Zapata	Little Lois	Old Blue Eyes (Mendoza)	Red Rocket	Tangier
Fancy Pajamas	Hot Cargo	Little Lou	On Edge	Regina	Targeteer
Fantasy Double Ann	Hot Line	Little Louie	Optimara Angelica	Renee	Tassy
Fantasy Wasp	Hot Touch	Little Love	Optimara Annie	Reverie	Teen Princess
Fantasy Lou	Iceberg	Little Lulu	Optimara Little Cherokee	Rhapsodie Candy	Teen Queen
Fashion Frenzy	Illini Deb	Little Maroon	Optimara Kansas	Rhapsodie Roxanne	Teen Wonder
Festival	Illini Gem	Little Miss Texas	Optimara Missouri	Rhapsodie Venus	Tennessee Apple
Fire Bug	Inca Maid	Little Rascal	Optimara New Jersey	Rhapsody	Blossom
First Recital	Indian Girl	Little Red Wagon	Optimara Pennsylvania	Rhinestone Cowboy	The Bride
Fisher's Anne Marie	Indian Summer	Little Ruddy	Orchid Beauty	Richter's Step Up	The Parson
Fisher's Miss Muffit	Irene	Little Seabird	Orchid Ripples	Rippled Romance	The Parson's Nadine
Flamingo Girl	Ivory Fashion	Lola	Oui Bells	Risque	The Parson's Ruffles
Fleur De Mais	Ivory Venus	Lorna	Oui Ben	Rob's June Bug	The Parson's Wife
Floral Fantasy	Jade	Love Song	Oui Louie	Rob's Nearly Perfect	Tidewater's Sweetheart
Fox Run	Jantien	Lulu Belle	Oui Love	Robyn Lynn	Timber Top
Frances Young	Jasmini	Lucky Duck	Pagan Fire	Rosalynn Carter	Tinari's Blue Eyes
Frathe's Debbie	Jazzy	Lucky Stripe	Painted Lady	Rosebud Trail	Tinari's Wild Girl
Frathe's Most Precious	Jeff's Jewel	Luxury	Pam's Potpourri	Rosie Lou	Tinted Snow
Fredette's Blue Jean	Jennifer	Lyndy Lou	Paragon	Rowena	Tiny Blue
Fredette's Elita	Jillian (Fredette)	Lynn	Parisienne Sport	Royal Elegance	Tiny Pink
Fredette's Sugar Blues	Jimmy Crack Corn	Lyon's Whisper Blue	Park Avenue	Royal Heart	Top Notch
Fredette's Twilight Fantasy	Joanne Cora	(Whisper Blue Lyon's?)	Patriot	Royal Ruby	Tribute
Friendship	Jovanny	Madison's Whisper Blue	Paul Bunyon	Ruthies Bell	Triple Threat
Frisled Blue	Jo's Feliveeten	Mammy	Paul's Pazzazz	Sabrina Marie	Twinkle
Frisled Orchid Rosette	Josie	Manhattan	Peach Jubilee	Sailor's Dream	Twist of Lime
Frosty	Joy Pink	Marcella	Peach Ruffles	Sailor Girl	Ulerly's Azure Beauty
Galt Grape	Juline	Mardi Gras	Peepers	Scarlet Macaw	Valera
Gay Coquette	Just Beautiful	Marie's Pacific Sunrise	Peggy Staat	Sea Bells	Vibrant Val
Gay Miss	Kansas City Chiefs	Marine	Peppermint Fog	Sea Grape	Violets N' Gold
Gay Patee	Kansas City Royals	Maroon Frost	Peppermint Frost	Sea Gull	Viva
Geane Marie	Karen Linda	Marvin's Silver Girl	Pilgrim Maid	Sea Queen	Vulcan's Treasure
Genesee Silhouette	Karla Lou	Mary Lou	Pigmy or Pygmy	Sensational	Waltztime
Geneva Rose	Kay Russell	Mary Louise	Pink Beauty	Shannon Renee	Wedgewood
Geneva Trail	King Richard	Maverick's Young Love	Pink Dresden	Shasta	Wee Stevie
GiGi (not Rhapsodie)	Kiss't	May Dance	Pink Fingers	Sherry Love	Westdale Purple Mountain
Gilded Strawberry	Kramer's Easterling	Melly	Pink Frosting	Sheryl's Renee	What Now
Ginger	Krista Lanning	Melodie Frances	Pink Geneva	Shine Boy	Whirlaway
Glacier Point	Krisie	Melodie Heather	Pink Girl	Show Stopper	Whirlaway Sport
Glow Baby	Kuhl's Parnassus	Melodie Kristen	Pink Mink	Silver Anniversary	Whisper Valley
Gorgeous Bicolor	Kuhl's Pink Treasure	Merida Wasp	Pink Reverie	Silver Champion	White Bloomin' Fool
Gorgeous One	Kuhl's Roundelay	Merry Christmas (Kramer)	Pink Ruffled	Silver Crest	White Delaware
Granger Gardens	Kuhl's Traille Rose	Michelle	Pink Velvet	Silver Flute	White Girl
Angel Lace	Lacy Girl	Midnight Star	Pistacio	Silver Token	White Pride Supreme
Granger Gardens	Lacy Laser	Mighty Mini	Plum Passion	Sixpense	White Wedgewood
Blue Empress	Lacy Red	Mimi's Stars	Plum Tip	Skagit Ambassador	White Whisper
Granger Gardens	Lacy Alura	Mindi's Tears	Pom Pom Delight	Skagit Lil Bobnus	Wine and Roses
Fuchsia Bride	Lady Catherine	Mine Alone	Popsicle	Skagit Pixie Doll	Witchcraft
Granger Gardens	Lady Clara	Ming Rose	Pretty Baby	Skagit Royalty	Wizard of Oz
White Gold	Lady Constant	Ming White	Pretty Please	Skagit Toy Asset	Wonder Surprize
Granger's Blue Fashionaire	Lady Luck	Mini Fantasy	Priscilla	Skybird	Wrangler's Campfire
Granger's Calais	Laredo Lad	Miriam Steel	Puerto Vallarta	Sky Magic	Wrangler's Double
Granger's Cotillion	Last Snow	Miss Liberty	Pure Innocence	Smile	Pleasure
Granger's Eternal Snow	Laurinda	Miss Wisconsin	Purple Enchantment	Snow Drops	Wrangler's Lady Lee
Granger's Fashionaire	Lavender Blue	Mohawk Trail	Purple Nautilus	Snow Flake	Wrangler's Lady Vallin
Granger's Festival	Lavender Elfyn Girl	Monaco	Purple Rocket	Snow Flurie (Arndt)	Wrangler's Lavender Lasso
Granger's Jim Dandy	Lavender Lady	Moonfire	Purple Star	Snow Queen	Wrangler's Moon Dance
Granger's Peppermint	Lavender Rose	Moonlight and Roses	Push Over	So Rosy	Wrangler's Moonshine
Granger's Rio Rita	Lavender Swirls	Moon Moths	Quiet Enough	Spangles	Wrangler's Pardner
Granger's Rose Ember	Leawalla	Moon Silver	Quiet Laughter	Spiced Peach	Wrangler's Prairie Fire
Granger's Rosemarie	LeBaron	Morea Surf	Quiet Melody	Sport of Crimson Frost	Wrangler's Ricochet
Granger's Venetian Lace	Legacy	Mountain Blue Boy	Quiet Reflection	Spring Bed	Romance
Great Find	Leprechaun Trail	Mountain Wildflowers	Quintara	Star of David	Wrangler's Rough Rider
Great Scott	Levitown	Mount Fuji	Rachel	Star of India	Wrangler's Roundup
Great White Way	Liberty Bell	Mrs. George S. Dupont	Radiant Star	Star Trailer	Wrangler's Sonuvagun
Green Glo	Lilac Lassie	Ms Frizz	Rainbow's Bantam	Staliner	Wrangler's Twilight Trail
Green Hornet	Lilac Puff	Darling	Neon Glo	Stormy Night	Wrangler's Yankee Yodler
Grenadier	Lilac Time - Behnke	My Lady Sue	Rainbow's Showboat	Sugar Plum Fairy	Zippy (Baker)
Gypsy Charm	Lilabelle	My Spoon	Rainmaker (Blansit)	Summer Lightening	Zuni

# WHO WOULD BE A GOOD CANDIDATE FOR OFFICER OR BOARD OF DIRECTOR FOR 2002-2003?

Your current Nominating Committee has completed the major portion of its responsibilities by presenting a slate of nominees for Board of Directors in the January AVM. These candidates will be voted upon at the Annual Meeting of AVSA at the Washington, DC Convention in May. This responsibility takes many hours and much paperwork. We were fortunate in having a previous chairman, Barbara Pershing, who provided us with a file of candidates to begin with.

Many others were added by the committee and from membership suggestions.

That is where you, the membership, come in! We need suggestions to pass on to the next committee. It is customary for the current committee to present available names to that committee. Completed nomination papers are kept on file for three years, and the member, if not selected in the current year, may be considered for two more years. We need a full slate this year, officers and five board of director nominees. Anyone to be considered for an officer position must have previously served on the Board for at least two years.

When you submit a name to me, I send that individual a

questionnaire to fill and return to me with names for three references. That form will indicate that you have suggested this person to be considered as a nominee for office. When this form is returned to me, I send out reference request forms. The questionnaire and references will be compiled and presented to the 2002-2003 Nominating Committee. The committee meets at the Washington convention on Thursday morning to discuss potential candidates and plan the activities of the committee for the coming months.

It is to the membership's advantage to have representation on the Board of Directors from all areas of our membership. Won't you put your thinking caps on and submit a name of a member that you feel would contribute to AVSA on the Board?

Please send that name to:

**Nancy G. Hayes**

9 Cobblestone Rd.

Bloomfield, CT 06002

Or by e-mail at: [john.hayes@snet.net](mailto:john.hayes@snet.net).



## Reservoirs

by Barbara Werness • Coon Rapids, MN

I enjoy having a large African violet collection. However, working full time and family obligations allow for only so much hobby time. Watering 200 show plants plus sale plants and seedlings is quite an undertaking. Add to that 125 orchids and several miscellaneous other house plants. Mat watering was a Godsend, and I used it for all my African violets. However, experience taught me that mat watering is also a great travel vehicle for pests. So I went to reservoirs - quart size for standards and pint size for miniatures and semiminiaures. Seedlings and sales plants continued to be matted.

A nice sized solarium houses most of my African violets and orchids. You can't imagine the amount of algae growth which develops from all the natural light when growing plants in this type environment. So the nice green reservoirs (algae plus mineral deposits) got to be a very time consum-

ing royal pain to clean.

Plastic bags to the rescue! I purchase the least expensive "baggie" type bags (non-ziplock) available. One of our local discount stores has boxes of 75 for \$1.50. Start with a clean, dry, reservoir. Partially fill a bag with water. Tip the bag so the water goes to a corner. Lower the point of the corner into the center of the reservoir. Fold the bag over to the outside of the reservoir and secure the lid. Trim off the excess plastic. Then go about wicking in your usual manner.

Now, when repotting, I simply toss the soiled lid into the wash barrel, toss the algae covered bag into the trash, and reline the reservoir with a new bag. Since the reservoir had the plastic bag as a barrier, it will not be the least bit dirty. It takes very little, if any, washing. Believe me, it's a real time saver.

# HYBRIDIZING OUR WAY

by Jenny and Pete White

Hybridizing is probably the most interesting and intriguing form of propagation of African violets. Unlike propagating with leaves and suckers where mostly replicas of the original plant are produced, any shape, color, or form can result from crossing two genetically different African violets. The object of hybridizing is to produce a plant genetically different from the parents with hopefully much finer traits.

The desire to hybridize is perhaps brought about by curiosity to increase knowledge of African violets and to create something different and exceptional in a plant. To make it easier to produce a quality plant, the parent plants selected should contain some qualities such as good foliage and symmetry, strong flower stems, and good bloom count. With knowledge of the anatomy of an African violet, as well as dominant and recessive traits, most hobbyists can find success with hybridizing.

We always have an aim to produce something specific when selecting plants to cross and always use a mature healthy plant for the seed bearing plant. When the flower opens, the male anthers are ready to use for pollinating, but it takes the female stigma approximately three days to become receptive. In this time, a sticky clear droplet forms on the end. This can be seen clearly under magnification, and pollination will be achieved more readily if pollen is transferred at this time. Record the cross and label the flower.

Within a short time, the ovary starts to swell if pollination was successful. The seed continues to develop and remains green for a few months. Then, at maturity it will turn brown.

At this stage, it can be removed from the plant and left in a jar for two weeks. The seed is then removed by cutting the seed pod open with a razor blade, allowing the seed to fall onto a sheet of white paper. The seed is then placed in an envelope and left to dry out for a further two weeks before planting.

Potting mix is placed in a container, dampened, and pasteurized in a microwave oven. When the mix has cooled

down, the very fine seed is carefully sprinkled on top and the container covered with Glad Wrap. It is then placed directly under the lights about six inches from the tube. Germination can take place from eight days on. There is no set time for seed germination as some are quicker than others. The warmer weather is a much better time for hybridizing and raising seeds.

When the plantlets reach the four leaf stage, they are pricked out with tweezers and planted in community trays where they are left to develop to a suitable size with sufficient root system to be transferred to an individual two inch pot. At this stage, TLC is necessary as any major setbacks can retard growth. Plantlets are carefully watched for special traits as they develop, and occasionally elimination starts at a very early stage.

Within four to five months from planting, flowers are starting to open, and it is important to be ruthless and only select "special" plants or the system becomes unmanageable. There is much joy in seeing something exceptional showing up in a seedling.

To prove the stability of the plant, it must be grown for three generations after which it can be named, listed, or registered in America. One needs to be patient, for hybridizing from pollination to proving the stability of a seedling takes at least two years.

It is very rewarding, and I think Australia has produced many good quality hybrids for a long time now. Hopefully more hobbyists will continue to hybridize and enjoy African violets.

This is how we go about hybridizing in our conditions. It works quite well, but that does not mean it is the only way. Stay with the basics, and give it a try, and most of all, enjoy doing it!

From the Newsletter of the Early Morn AV Group,  
Australia and New Zealand

## In Memory

### OLGA MACLEAN

Olga MacLean, First Lady of Bay State African Violet Society, passed away in October, 2001. She was responsible for the formation of Bay State African Violet Society, in 1959. Olga was a charter member and first president. She was a frequent chairman of many early Bay State shows. Olga held all offices in Bay State Judges Council and Bay State Board. Her home was open for all council and board meetings when she lived in Norwood, MA.

Olga was an African Violet Society of America Board member and Secretary from 1967-1969. She was AVSA Convention Chairman in 1967 and Show Chairman in 1990. Olga encouraged many people to join AVSA while staffing our African violet display at the New England Flower Show, and serving as Chairman.



She was a mentor to many of our members and helped several clubs form throughout Massachusetts. She was Bay State Parliamentarian.

Olga formed the Friendly African Violet Club and was its first president. At the time of her death, she had been Honorary Director for many years.

### AGNES GRUD

The AVS of Northern Illinois lost a longtime friend and member, Agnes Grud.

Agnes grew African violets for over fifty years and could tell many stories of her successes and failures. She was always a willing speaker who worked hard at our shows and sales. Agnes was an asset to our club and a good friend who will be missed by all who knew her.



# Violet Photos and ... Copyrights?

By Laurie A.E. O'Meara  
Artist and Horticulturist  
Cape Cod, MA

(With a very special BIG thanks to **Isabell Olevall** of Sweden, whose hard work and determination has paved the way in protecting the copyrights of herself and others.)

A website where photographs of the beautiful African violets we all love are in one place. Where a person can check these photos for fabulous features, bountiful bloom types, or just linger over the lovely leaves. Perhaps nothing can replace the beautiful photos we find in **AVM**, but when it comes to viewing African violet photographs on the web, well, we don't have to imagine it, it already exists at the **AVSA** website <http://www.avsa.org/Photographs.asp>.

Recently, a website based in another country infringed on copyrights of African violet collectors, hobbyists, and growers. This particular site stole photographs, text and full pages from sites all over the Internet to use in their own online catalog. Three full pages were stolen from my own site. So what's wrong with that? Well, for one, and it's a really big "one", it's against the law to copy photographs or other material without permission of the owner. This Russian site is probably not the first, the only, or the last to steal material. Some people have commented to me that it is done all the time on the "web". Perhaps that is so, but protecting the rights and the integrity of authors, artists, and photographers is a basic principle built into the laws of the United States and also adopted in many countries' laws.

Many of us may copy photographs for our own personal use from the Internet. There seems to be some confusion as to what is protected on the Internet and what is considered "copyright-free".

Bear with me a moment while I give you a quote from Title 17 of the United States Code, subsection 101, Definitions:

"Pictorial, graphic, and sculptural works" include two-dimensional and three-dimensional works of fine, graphic, and applied art, photographs, prints and art reproductions, maps, globes, charts, diagrams, models, and technical drawings, including architectural plans." Notice this does not say digital photographs are not protected.

In subsection 102, Subject matter of Copyright: In General: of the same Code, it states:

"(a) Copyright protection subsists, in accordance with this title, in original works of authorship fixed in any tangible medium of expression, now known or later developed, from which they can be perceived, reproduced, or otherwise communicated, either directly or with the aid of a machine or a device. Works of authorship include the following categories: (1) literary works; (2) musical works, including any

accompanying words; (3) dramatic works, including any accompanying music; (4) pantomimes and choreographic works; (5) pictorial, graphic, and sculptural works; (6) motion pictures and other audiovisual works; (7) sound recordings; and (8) architectural works."

Subsection 201. Ownership of copyright:

"(a) Initial Ownership. – Copyright in a work protected under this title vests initially in the author or authors of the work. The authors of a joint work are co-owner of copyright in the work"

In simple terms, what does this mean? It means if you copy material from the Internet that you didn't create, without asking permission, you are infringing on the owner's rights. It is against the law, and the Digital Millennium Copyright Act took this further in 1998 to restrict the use of other people's materials even more. If an item is copyright-free, it will be marked as such. If you don't see something marked copyright-free, it's safe to assume it isn't.

But what about "personal use?"

Subsection 110. Limitations on exclusive rights: Exemption of certain performances and displays:

"(5) (A) except as provided in subparagraph (B), communication of a transmission embodying a performance or display of a work by the public reception of the transmission on a single receiving apparatus of a kind commonly used in private homes, unless-

- (i) a direct charge is made to see or hear the transmission; or
- (ii) the transmission thus received is further transmitted to the public..."

This initially leads me to believe personal use is okay, but it is unclear as to whether a particular type of material is referred to. I would think it covers all material, because in other paragraphs exclusions are listed. Subparagraph (B) did not seem to directly apply. Another term used through the text is "fair use" and that is usually the determining factor in violation of law.

Also, these laws incorporate the Berne Convention which states: "The Berne Convention and the Universal Copyright Convention provide subjects of signatory countries (among them Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom) with automatic copyright protection. Any work in a fixed material form, published or unpublished, is ruled to be the property of the author, who has the sole right to produce or reproduce the work or a substantial part of that work. In the



case of recordings made on “mechanical contrivances,” the work itself and the individual recording are different items, copyrighted separately.”

Again, the safest thing to assume is that material is copyrighted, whether or not it is marked as such. I must stress that many copyright owners are willing to share their images or material, if you ASK. So many of us willingly share our photographs with friends. It really isn't too much trouble to email someone with a compliment on their photo and a request for use.

Perhaps my background as an artist makes me more aware of preserving someone else's copyright. Perhaps “borrowing” one little photo won't hurt. Or, perhaps it does hurt, because it violates the creativity, the intellect, and the vision of the photographer, artist, writer, creator. The example of the stealing of African violet images done by this Russian site is a perfect example. All they had to do was ask permission. One little email to the owner of the material asking for permission to use it. Simple respect for ownership and creativity.

One person commented that they liked the Russian site due to the number of reference photos. We have a place and a way to have a full reference of photos, right at our fingertips. Ahhhhhh... yes, I am back to the point. **AVSA**.

We have so many talented photographers in our midst, and you know that I know who some of you are. Gorgeous photos and plants! Just beautiful images. Why not submit them to **AVSA** for use on the Official African Violet website? The submission procedures are listed below:

1. **Email** all photos for submission to the AVSA Web Site to: [jimowens@columbus.rr.com](mailto:jimowens@columbus.rr.com).
2. The **file format** of the photo should be in either JPEG or GIF format and will have “.jpg” or “.gif” after the **name**, without the quotation marks. The name should be the plant's name, as an example, [LauriesLulu.jpg](http://LauriesLulu.jpg) for the (as yet imaginary) plant named Laurie's Lulu.
3. If not located in **First Class** or the **AVML**, please include **size** (mini, standard, etc.) and **description**, following the description **guidelines in AVML**. Include **hybridizer's** name. If registered, include the **registration number and date**.

Not only will you contribute to the love we all have for African Violets with one official site for reference photos, you will help to eliminate the need for anyone else to build a site constructed of stolen property. Will contributing stop everyone from copying material on the web? Probably not, and copying is an individual choice, as most things are. However, you will be beautifying the site of the Society we all love, and that's a good thing.

And speaking of beautiful photographs, I hear that the upcoming revision for **First Class**, authored by **Joe Bruns**, will have, well, let me tell you what Joe said:

“There will be a lot of photos included with the new version of **First Class**. (We're hopeful for at least 2,000 to start.) *Every one of them* will be with the written permission of the photographer or owner, and each one will have a caption below it saying “Photo courtesy of (Name).”

And **Joyce Myers** is a “beta-tester” for the new version. Here is what she had to say:

“If I had to sum up **First Class** in one word, I could only say, WOW! The program is very user friendly, and contains even photos. You can search by size, blooms, and foliage. Printing is simple and easy, and the user is given several options. If everyone enjoys the program as much as I have had with beta testing, it will be a super hit with everyone.”

So, in addition to posting your photos on your own websites or albums, The **AVSA** site and the new **First Class** are two places to donate your photographs that will make “most-wonderful” additions.

And of course, we will all want to have the revised **First Class** when it is released, if only for the photos (although it really is so much more)! 2000, right at my fingertips! Copyright honored! “Wow” is right! Between **AVSA** and **First Class**, descriptions and photos, we really can't ask for much more. Well, there's that variegated trailer I'm after.....but that's another story.

To submit photos to AVSA, follow the procedures above. To submit photos for possible use in **First Class**, contact Joe Bruns directly at [jbruns@attbi.com](mailto:jbruns@attbi.com).

To find out more about copyright infringement, the best site I have found so far is that of the **Copyright Infringement Group**. They are based in the United Kingdom and are working to help protect the copyrights of people everywhere. On their site at <http://www.copyrightinfringementgroup.com>

they list all the information you will need to begin to protect your copyright, as well as links to the legal information. You may also visit the website page I created for this purpose at <http://www.laeom.com/copyrightinfringement.htm>

## References

### Title 17 of the United States Code –

<http://www.loc.gov/copyright/title17/>

### Digital Millennium Copyright Act –

<http://www.educause.edu/issues/dmca.html>

### United States Copyright Office

**Web:** <http://www.loc.gov/copyright/>

### Postal mail:

(Currently, delivery is disrupted to some Government Offices; in the absence of Internet access, a phone call might be better)

### Library of Congress

#### Copyright Office

101 Independence Avenue, S.E.

Washington, D.C. 20559-6000

Public Information Office: (202) 707-3000

### Copyright Infringement Group –

<http://www.copyrightinfringementgroup.com>

# Propagating by Bloomstalk

by Kim Thorogood

Propagating by bloomstalk is an excellent method to use if you want to propagate a chimera without removing the plant's center, or any other plant that is unstable and you want to grow another just like it.

Strictly speaking, even this method is not 100% guaranteed, but in the cases mentioned above, it is more likely to succeed than propagating from a leaf.

## Here's how you do it:

1. Bloom stalks are not as sturdy as leaves so need to be "fattened up". A week or so before you want to propagate the bloom stalk, cut off the flower close to the junction of the stem and the leaves and threaten family members with death if they remove the stalk.
2. When you're ready to propagate the bloom stalk, find a very small pot. Use either the pots on sale for minis or some other small container that you can poke drainage holes in.
3. Write the name of the plant on the side of the pot, along with the date.
4. Thread a wick through the pot.
5. Moisten potting mix and fill the container to the brim.
6. Poke a small hole in the center of the pot, to a depth of approximately one inch.
7. Prepare your bloom stalk by removing it from the plant and cutting the stem to approximately one inch below the leaf junction.
8. If preferred, dip the stem in rooting hormone powder or gel.
9. Lower the bloom stalk carefully into the potting mix until the leaves are level with the top of the potting mix.
10. Give the pot a slight tap on the table to settle the mix a bit.
11. Put the pot (complete with cutting) inside a plastic bag and seal it up.
12. Place the mini "hot-house" in a warm, sunny position, away from draughts.
13. Wait, wait, and then wait some more (patience IS a virtue with this hobby).
14. Approximately three to six months later, you may get a small plant that emerges between the leaves of the bloom stalk.
15. Let that grow until it's about two inches across, and then remove it from the bloom stalk, as you would take a sucker from a plant.
16. Plant the "sucker" in some fresh potting mix as you would for any other crown cutting.

From the Newsletter of the Early Morn AV Group

## Seeing the Light

by Ruth Coulson

To grow well, your African violets must receive good light. It is one of the most important factors in getting that great show plant shape.

There are a good many ideas on how to ensure that your plants are getting enough light. Measuring the available light is a complexity with which many of us don't concern ourselves. It is usually clear whether an area is sufficiently bright. Whether a sharp shadow is cast by objects in the area is a good guide, and there are many other rules of thumb. In such a complex matter, however, the best guide is to look and see whether the plants themselves are doing well. They will always tell you if there is not enough light.

### Where light conditions for African violets are correct:

Leaf color is a strong green.

Growth patterns are generally flat and symmetrical with nearly overlapping rows of leaves with little or no petiole showing.

Flower and leaf stems are strong and sturdy. Flowers are produced early, prolifically, and continually, depending upon variety.

### Where light is insufficient for African violets:

Flower and leaf stems may be long and weak.

Leaves may not be full size.

Leaf color may be pale.

Growth can be rather upright instead of flat.

Flowering will be less frequent and less prolific.

### Where there is too much light for African violets:

Leaves may be smaller than usual.

Leaf color may be rather yellow, and may show some burn patches if actually receiving direct sunlight.

Flower and leaf stems may be unusually short. Flowering can still be prolific.

Leaves may become spooned (usually applies under artificial light).

Centers may become congested (also under artificial light).

It is easy to see that the most acceptable show plants will be found in the group receiving the correct amount of light. Of course, it is easier to get the amount of light right if growing under artificial lights (10 to 12 hours per day). However, it is possible to grow really creditable plants in natural light. Do remember to turn the plants regularly, though. About a quarter turn every two days is perfect. A quarter turn each week is more realistic. Some plants require more light than others, so a little swapping around may solve some problems. Just let them see the light.

From "The African Violet", publication of the  
AV Association of Australia, Inc.

# Container Gardening

by Gary Gordon

## **Terrariums:**

Producing one strictly for use in a show and not as an ongoing planting.

1. Begin by reviewing the show schedule and theme. Decide on the basic design and how you are going to present it. Think about the accessories that you will use, if any. Think about the key elements of the planting: Trees? Grass? Trailing? Will you have a water feature?
2. Select a container. Any transparent container with a cover will do. Typically, aquariums or bubble bowls are used, but other possibilities are brandy snifters, cookie jars, etc. The container must be clean and should lend itself to the landscape plan. You may want to rough out the plan on paper. Remember that this is a design - you need height as well as open space. A container with a large opening is much easier to work with. The cover should be as unobtrusive as possible. You can have a glass cover cut or cut a cover out of clear plastic. Now we are ready to go to work on our creation.
3. If you are using a large accessory, you may want to anchor it to the container first. Next, partially line the sides (the area of the container below the soil level) with a thin layer of moist sheet moss. Roughly fill in your landscape with the soil mix. I prefer to use pure peat moss mixed with Styrofoam peanuts. I use the peanuts because they reduce the weight and are easy to move around. Soil mixes with perlite and vermiculite are hard to cover up. Add any major accessories such as rocks or pieces of wood.
4. Remove the pots from the major plants (except for the African violet) and locate them as determined by your plan. They must not extend above the top of the container and should not touch the sides. Place an empty pot where you plan to use the African violet, because they usually don't stay in bloom long in this environment. At this point I find it useful to take a hard look at the planting/design to determine if it looks the way I want it to and if not, make changes.
5. Cover the soil surface area around your plantings and accessories. This is the key step in making the planting appear to be well established. Green moss usually makes the best ground cover; however, sifted soil, bark, sand, etc., may also work. Learn where you can collect these items. Some areas of your landscape (paths, water features) may call for a ground cover of small stones or gravel.
6. Now, add the smaller plants, vines, rocks, water features, or other accessories. Carefully examine the terrarium, and groom and prune where necessary. Mist the plants and hide any distracting soil materials (perlite). Cover the terrarium and place it facing a window or on a light stand in a position where the plants will be attracted to the front.

This usually takes a week or so. Add the violet a day or two before the show. If the glass fogs up, partially uncover the terrarium until it clears. Clean the container for the final time in the show room.

## **Dish Gardens:**

Dish gardens are similar in many aspects to terrariums and the steps for putting them together are the same. The major difference is the container, which does not have a cover. The dish shall not have multiple or divided planting areas. The container should fit with the theme of the design and not distract. The color should usually be dark green, black or terra-cotta.

As a rough guideline, the height should be 1 1/2 times the width of the container. This usually requires creating a hill or some sort of raised area to add height. For example, if you use an 18" dish, you need a plant/accessory approximately 27" tall. The challenge is to find plants with that height that have root balls small enough for the depth of the dish.

When completed, mist and cover with a plastic sheet for a day or two to reduce the chance of wilting or transplant shock. Again, add the violet a day or two before the show.

## **Natural Garden**

Again, the process is essentially the same, except for the container. Here is the place for creativity. Anything natural such as seashells, rocks, lava rocks, logs, stumps, or drift wood can be used. There is no rule against painting or staining the container to enhance its natural look. Natural garden containers may (and usually do) have more than one planting area or pocket. Natural gardens cannot have a base. In natural gardens you are planting in "nooks and crannies" which usually don't allow much room for roots and soil. I wrap the root ball with moist sphagnum moss to reduce the shock for the plant. It also helps to cover the soil.

Mist frequently, as the shallow planting pockets dry out quickly. Cover the planting with a plastic tent to reduce the chance of wilting or transplant shock. Again, add the violet a day or two before the show.

There are many accessories available. Natural materials such as pieces of wood, rocks, slate, broken bricks, stones, pine bark nuggets, etc., are commonly used and add interest. They are helpful in suggesting meadows, woods, valleys, cliffs, etc. I also like water features. Actual water is rarely, if ever, used. However, a number of materials can be effectively used to suggest water. For example, blue aquarium gravel, dyed sand, black plastic, sliced rocks, clear or colored food wrap, or candle wax can be used. Other accessories should be appropriate to the class title, type of planting, and reasonably scaled to the size of the container. Unless you need an accessory to depict the theme, don't use one. If you do, use a small one and hide it.

From *The Dixie News*

# Coming Events



## March 1 & 2 - FLORIDA

Central Florida AVS Show/Sale  
Beardall Senior Center  
800 Delaney St  
Orlando, FL  
Mar 1 - noon - 4pm  
Mar 2 - 9am - 4pm  
Info: (407) 322 - 3675

## March 2 - TEXAS

Spring Branch AVC 23rd Annual Show/Sale  
Houston Arboretum Nature Center  
4501 Woodway Drive (in Memorial Park)  
Hours: 10am - 4:30pm

## March 8 - 10 - MINNESOTA

Lake Area Violet Growers Show/Sale  
Har Mar Mall  
County Road B and Snelling  
Roseville, MN  
Mar 8 - 10am - 9pm  
Mar 9 - 10am - 6pm  
Mar 10 - 11am - 6pm  
Info: Nadyne Olsen (763) 757 - 6490

## March 9 - OREGON

Portland AVA Display/Sale  
Tabor Heights Methodist Church  
6161 SE Stark  
Portland, OR  
Hours: 10am - 4pm  
Info: Ruth Jones (503) 771 - 5762  
Charlotte Smith (503) 223 - 9855

## March 9 & 10 - LOUISIANA

Sundowners AVS Show/Sale  
Baton Rouge Garden Center  
7950 Independence Blvd.  
Baton Rouge, LA

## March 9 - CALIFORNIA

South Coast AVS Judged Show/Sale  
South Coast Botanic Garden  
26300 Crenshaw Blvd.  
Palos Verde Peninsula, CA  
Info: Grace Eisenhut (310) 325 - 2993

## March 9 & 10 - FLORIDA

AVS of Pensacola Show/Sale  
Scottish Rite Temple  
2 East Wright Street  
Pensacola, FL  
Mar 9 - 2pm - 5pm  
Mar 10 - noon - 5pm  
Info: Louis Merritt (850) 476-5808  
Email: glayvettemerritt@cs.com

## March 9 & 10 - ARIZONA

Tucson AVS 45th Annual Judged Show/Sale  
El Con Mall  
3601 E Broadway  
Tucson, AZ  
Mar 9 - 10am - 9pm  
Mar 10 - 11am - 5pm  
Info: Sue Sacco (520) 721 - 0813

## March 9 & 10 - FLORIDA

Gulf AVC Judged Show  
Garden Council and Activity Center  
2646 Cleveland Ave.  
Fort Myers, FL  
Info: Cathy Carter (941) 768 - 3396

## March 9 & 10 - FLORIDA

Fantasy AVC AVSA Judged Show  
Oak Hill Hospital Enrichment Center  
Cortez Blvd. (Rt. 50)  
Mar 9 - 11am - 5pm  
Mar 10 - noon - 5pm

## March 14 - 16 - TEXAS

Three Dallas Area Violet Clubs Show/Sale  
Alpha AVS, First of Dallas AVS, and First Nighter AVS  
Richardson Square Mall  
Plano & Bellline  
Richardson, TX  
Hours: 10am - 9pm  
Info: Grace Davis (972) 278 - 0389

## March 15 & 16 - CALIFORNIA

Pomona Valley AVS 50th Anniversary Judged Show/Sale  
Church of the Brethren  
2175 Bonita Ave., La Verne, CA  
Mar 15 - 1pm - 6pm  
Mar 16 - 9am - 4pm  
Info: Iris Keating (909) 624 - 2314  
Email: ekeating@supomona.edu

## March 16 & 17 - TEXAS

First Austin AVS Show/Sale  
Austin Area Garden Center, Zilker Park  
2220 Barton Springs Rd  
Austin, TX  
Mar 16 - 10am - 4:30pm  
Mar 17 - 10am - 4pm  
Info: Susan Storey (512) 392 - 3928

## March 16 & 17 - NEW YORK

Sweet Water AVS 27th Annual Show/Sale  
West Sayville Fire Department Hall  
Montauk Hwy & Atlantic Ave.  
West Sayville, NY  
Mar 16 - 2pm - 5pm  
Mar 17 - noon - 5pm  
Info: (631) 581 - 8116

## March 21 - 24 - SOUTH CAROLINA

Dixie AVS 2002 Convention  
Holiday Inn Oceanfront  
415 S. Ocean Blvd  
Myrtle Beach, SC  
Info: (252) 747 - 8917

## March 22 & 23 - TENNESSEE

Memphis AVS Judged Show/Sale  
Memphis Botanic Garden  
750 Cherry Rd  
Memphis, TN  
Mar 22 - 9am - 6pm  
Mar 23 - 9am - 5pm

## March 22 - 24 - MINNESOTA

AVS of Minnesota Show/Sale  
Har Mar Mall  
Snelling Ave & Country Rd. B  
Roseville, MN  
Mar 22 - 10am - 9pm  
Mar 23 - 10am - 5pm  
Mar 24 - noon - 5pm  
Info: Terry Klemesrud (763) 712 - 5649

## March 22 & 23 - New Jersey

Union County AVS 48th Annual Show/Sale  
All Saints Episcopal Church  
559 Park Ave  
Scotch Plains, NJ  
Mar 22 - 6pm - 9pm  
Mar 23 - 10am - 4pm  
Info: Jean Peters (908) 276 - 3221

## March 22 & 23 - TEXAS

First AVS of Denton Show/Sale  
Erwin Hall  
First Presbyterian Church  
1114 W. University Dr.  
Denton, TX  
Mar 22 - 1:30 pm - 6pm  
Mar 23 - 10am - 4pm

## March 22 & 23 - NEBRASKA

Lincoln AVS Show  
East Park Plaza, 60th & O St.  
North Entrance  
Mar 22 - 10am - 6:30pm  
Mar 23 - 10am - 6pm  
Info: B.J. Ohme (402) 438 - 9469

## March 23 - CALIFORNIA

Tustana AVS Judged Show/Sale  
Westminster Community Services Center  
8200 Westminster Blvd.  
Westminster, CA  
Info: Immi Bullinger (714) 779 - 6562  
Dee Probert (949) 548 - 4713

## March 23 & 24 - ILLINOIS

Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society Judged Show/Sale  
Chicago Botanic Garden  
Glencoe, IL  
Mar 23 - noon - 4pm  
Mar 24 - 10am - 4pm  
Info: Susan Bradford (847) 740 - 7801

## March 23 & 24 - CALIFORNIA

Central California AVS Show/Sale  
Manchester Center Mall  
1901 E. Shields (Blackstone & Shields)  
Fresno, CA  
Info: (559) 896 - 0365  
(559) 294 - 8650

## March 23 - NEW YORK

AVS of WNY Annual Judged Show/Sale  
Walden Galleria Mall  
1 Walden Galleria Dr.  
Cheekowaga, NY  
Mall Hours  
Info: (716) 636 - 0934

## March 23 & 24 - NEW YORK

Capital District AVS Show/Sale  
Albany Elks Club  
25 S. Allen St.  
Albany, NY  
Mar 23 - 1pm - 5pm  
Mar 24 - 11am - 3pm  
Info: (518) 436 - 4740

## March 27 - CALIFORNIA

Town & Country AVS of So. California Judged Show/Sale  
Redlands Church of Christ  
1000 Roosevelt Rd.  
Redlands, CA  
Info: (909) 792 - 6816

## March 29 - FLORIDA

Heart of Jacksonville AVS Display/Sale  
Avenues Mall  
10300 Southside Blvd.  
Jacksonville, FL  
Mall Hours  
Info: [Bobbie@juno.com](mailto:Bobbie@juno.com)

## March 30 & 31 - MICHIGAN

Michigan State AVS Display/Sale  
Matthaei Botanical Gardens  
1800 Dixboro Rd.  
Ann Arbor, MI  
Mar 30 - 10am - 4:30pm  
Mar 31 - 11am - 2pm  
Info: Loren Callentine (989) 345 - 9053

## April 6 & 7 - NEW JERSEY

AVC of Morris County 7th Annual Show/Sale  
Frelinghuysen Arboretum  
53 East Hanover Avenue  
Morristown, NJ  
Info: Jill Fischer (908) 464-4417  
Email: [HFJGFischer@worldnet.att.net](mailto:HFJGFischer@worldnet.att.net)

## April 6 & 7 - CALIFORNIA

City City AVS Judged Show/Sale  
Sacramento Garden and Arts Center  
3330 McKinley Boulevard  
Sacramento, CA  
Apr 6 - 2pm - 5pm  
Apr 7 - 10am - 4pm  
Info: Oscar Faoro (916) 421 - 8833  
Nesi Mendes (530) 677 - 5120

## April 6 & 7 - NEW YORK

Saintpaulia Society of Long Island 8th Annual Show/Sale  
St. Mary of the Isle Parish Hall  
Park Ave. & Monroe  
Long Beach, NY  
Apr 6 - 3pm - 7pm  
Apr 7 - 9am - 3pm  
Info: Edward Bradford (718) 847 - 9854

## April 6 - ALABAMA

Early Bird AVC Plant Sale/Exhibit  
Birmingham Botanical Gardens  
2612 Lane Park Road  
Birmingham, AL  
Hours: 10am - 3pm  
Info: Gwen Johnson (205) 991 - 5335



**April 13 - OHIO**

Cincinnati AVS Show/Sale  
Eastgate Mall  
4601 Eastgate Blvd  
Mall Hours  
Info: (859) 635 - 2759

**April 12 & 13 - NEW JERSEY**

Bergen County AVS Show/Sale  
Old North Reformed Church  
Corner of Washington and Madison  
Dumont, NJ  
Apr 12 - 3pm - 9pm  
Apr 13 - 9am - 3pm  
Info: Jean Meyer (201) 750 - 7396

**April 12 - WISCONSIN**

Milwaukee AVS Judged Show  
St. Frances Library  
4230 South Nicholson Ave.  
St. Francis, WI  
Hours: 1pm - 3pm  
Info: Irene Merrell (262) 567 - 6573

**April 13 & 14 - CALIFORNIA**

San Mateo AVS Show/Sale  
San Mateo Garden Center  
605 Parkside Way  
San Mateo, CA  
Apr 13 - 2pm - 5pm  
Apr 14 - 10am - 3pm  
Info: Lisa Fuller  
Email: [lisa94070@yahoo.com](mailto:lisa94070@yahoo.com)

**April 13 & 14 - NEW YORK**

Long Island AVS 48th Annual Show  
John A. Anderson Recreation Center  
111 North Ocean Drive  
Rockville Centre, New York  
Apr 13 - 2pm - 5pm  
Apr 14 - noon - 5pm  
Info: Marilyn Daum (516) 379 - 6211

**April 13 & 14 - NEW MEXICO**

Albuquerque AVC 34th Annual Judged Show/Sale  
Albuquerque Garden Center  
10120 Lomas Blvd. NE  
Albuquerque, NM  
Apr 13 - 2pm - 5pm  
Apr 14 - 10am - 4pm  
Info: Agatha Garrison (505) 384 - 5026  
Margaret Schmierer  
(505) 836 - 1228

**April 13 & 14 - NEW YORK**

Rochester AVS Show/Sale  
Perington Square Mall  
Apr 13 - 2pm - 6pm  
Apr 14 - 11am - 5pm  
Info: Al Meyer (315) 462 - 6616

**April 19 - 21 - MISSOURI**

Unpredictables AVS Show/Sale  
4200 Blue Ridge Blvd.  
Independence, MO  
Apr 19 - 10am - 9pm  
Apr 20 - 10am - 9pm  
Apr 21 - Noon - 5pm  
Info: Linda Golubski (816) 229 - 2051

**April 20 & 21 - CANADA**

Société des Saintpaulia de Montréal  
Judged Show  
Châlet du parc Maisonneuve  
4601 Sherbrooke Street East  
Montréal, Québec, Canada  
Hours: 10am - 4pm  
Info: Monique Beaucage (514) 990-5701  
Email: [monique.beaucage@hotmail.com](mailto:monique.beaucage@hotmail.com)

**April 20 & 21 - COLORADO**

Rocky Mountain AV Council  
Denver Botanic Gardens  
1007 York St.  
Denver, CO  
Apr 20 - 1pm - 4:30pm  
Apr 21 - 10am - 4pm  
Info: Nelly Levine (303) 423 - 6072

**April 20 & 21 - OHIO**

Columbus AVS 54th Show/Sale  
Franklin Park Conservatory  
1777 East Broad St.  
Columbus, OH  
Apr 20 - 10am - 5pm  
Apr 21 - noon - 4pm  
Info: Nancy Carr (614) 864 - 8130

**April 26 & 27 - MINNESOTA**

North Star AV Council  
Northtown Mall  
Hwy. 10 & University Ave. NE  
Blaine, MN  
Info: Sandy Officer: (952) 835 - 8603

**April 27 - MISSOURI**

Heart of Missouri AVS Show  
Trinity Presbyterian Church  
1600 Rollins Ave.  
Columbia, MO  
Hours: 9am - 2pm  
Info: Dorothy Anderson  
(573) 442 - 4798

**April 27 & 28 - MISSISSIPPI**

Town & Country AVC Display/Sale  
Oxford Public Library  
530 Pontiac Rd.  
Oxford, MS  
Apr 27 - noon - 5pm  
Apr 28 - 1pm - 5pm  
Info: Lynn Allen (248) 332 - 7924

**April 27 - WASHINGTON**

Seattle AVS Show/Sale  
University of Washington  
Horticultural Center  
Center for Urban Horticulture  
3501 NE 41st St.  
Seattle, WA  
Hours: Noon - 4pm  
Info: Cathleen Graves (253) 535 - 5973

**April 27 - TEXAS**

AVS of Beacom Plant Sale  
Central Mall  
Fort Arthur, TX  
Hours: 10am - 5pm

**April 27 & 28 - CANADA**

Lakeshore AVS of Toronto Annual Show/Sale  
Sherway Gardens Centre Square  
25 The West Mall  
Etobicoke, ON  
Apr 27 - 11am - 6pm  
Apr 28 - noon - 6pm  
Info: Vivian Beeching (905) 279-1758  
Email: [vivian@communityofchrist.ca](mailto:vivian@communityofchrist.ca)

**April 27 & 28 - CONNECTICUT**

Naugatic AVS Show/Sale  
Boothe Memorial park  
Main Street  
Stratford, CT  
Apr 27 - 1pm - 4pm  
Apr 28 - 10am - 4pm  
Info: Don Goodwin (860) 283 - 5311

**May 1 - 4 - CANADA**

AVS of Canada 35th Annual Convention/Show  
Hosted By: Stamped City AVS  
Best Western Village Park Inn  
1804 Crowchild Trail NW  
Calgary, AL, Canada  
Registration Forms Email:  
[show2002@avsc.ca](mailto:show2002@avsc.ca)  
Info: Winston J. Goretsky  
(403) 241 - 8300

**May 3 & 4 - ILLINOIS**

Late Bloomers AVS Show/Sale  
Freeport Lincoln Mall  
1265 West Galena Ave.  
Freeport, IL  
May 3 - 10am - 5pm  
May 4 - 9am - 5pm  
Info: Janice Judd (608) 325 - 7273

**May 3 - 5 - NEW JERSEY**

Garden State AVC 51st Show/Sale  
Market Fair Mall  
Route 1 South  
Princeton, NJ  
May 3 - noon - 9pm  
May 4 - 10am - 9pm  
May 5 - 10am - 4pm

**May 4 & 5 - CALIFORNIA**

Ventura County AVS Judged Show/Sale  
Pacific View Mall  
Main Street & Mills Rd.  
Ventura, CA  
Mall Hours  
Info: Adrienne Stringer (661) 296 - 6440  
Email: [VCAYS1@aol.com](mailto:VCAYS1@aol.com)

**May 4 & 5 - CONNECTICUT**

Silvermine AVS Judged Show/Sale  
Nature Center for  
Environmental Activities  
10 Woodside Lane  
Westport, CT  
May 4 - 1:30pm - 5pm  
May 5 - Noon - 4pm  
Info: Marjorie Rosenberg  
(203) 226 - 1784  
Email: [savs\\_ct01@hotmail.com](mailto:savs_ct01@hotmail.com)

**May 4 & 5 - MISSOURI**

Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council  
47th Show/Sale  
Missouri Botanical Garden  
4544 Shaw Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO  
Both Days: 9am - 5pm  
Info: Fran Russom (314) 647 - 5892

**May 3 - 5 - NEW YORK**

AVS of Syracuse  
49th Show/Sale  
Shoppingtown Mall  
3649 Erie Blvd. East  
Syracuse, NY  
May 3 - Noon - 9:30pm  
May 4 - 10am - 9:30pm  
May 5 - 11am - 6pm

**May 4 & 5 - MASSACHUSETTS**

Bay State AVS Show/Sale  
Waltham Field Station  
240 Beaver St.  
Waltham, MA  
May 4 - 1pm - 4pm  
May 5 - 10am - 3pm  
Info: Bob Clark (978) 738 - 6983  
Email: [thecops@yahoo.com](mailto:thecops@yahoo.com)

**May 4 & 5 - OHIO**

AVS of Dayton Annual Show  
Towns Mall at I-75  
Middletown, OH  
May 4 - Noon - 9pm  
May 5 - Noon - 4pm  
Info: JoAnne Brown (513) 777 - 7041

**May 4 & 5 - MISSOURI**

Sho-Me AVC Annual Show  
Loose Park Garden Center  
5200 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Kansas City, MO  
May 4 - 10am - 5pm  
May 5 - 10am - 2pm  
Info: Julie Fox (816) 532 - 4258  
Email: [jew01@earthlink.net](mailto:jew01@earthlink.net)

**May 4 & 5 - WISCONSIN**

Oshkosh Violet Society 22nd Annual Show/Sale  
St. Joseph Church  
1353 Walnut Street  
Oshkosh, WI  
May 4 - 10am - 5pm  
May 5 - Noon - 4:30pm  
Info: Cathy (920) 685 - 5262  
Kevin (920) 426 - 3764

**May 4 - FLORIDA**

Heart of Florida Exhibit /Sale  
Leu gardens  
1920 N. Forest Ave.  
Orlando, FL  
Hours: Noon - 5pm  
Info: Ron Bannister (407) 365 - 4119  
Email: [violastrib@aol.com](mailto:violastrib@aol.com)

**May 4 & 5 - NOVA SCOTIA**

First Halifax AVS Show/Sale  
Museum of Natural History  
Summer St.  
Halifax, NS  
May 4 - 1pm - 5pm  
May 5 - 1pm - 4pm

**May 10 & 11 - OHIO**

Parmatoun AVC Show/Sale  
Parmatoun Mall  
7899 West Ridgewood Dr.  
Parna, OH  
May 10 - 9am - 9pm  
May 11 - 9am - 6pm  
Info: Martha Bell (530) 483 - 3546

**May 10 & 11 - IOWA**

Evening AVC of Des Moines Show/Sale  
Des Moines Botanical Center  
May 10 - 5pm - 9pm  
May 11 - 10am - 5pm  
Info: Angi Allison (515) 387 - 8557

**May 11 & 12 - CALIFORNIA**

Foothill AVS Display/Sale  
Westfield Shoppingtown  
The Plaza at West Covina  
112 Plaza Drive  
West Covina, CA  
May 11 - 10am - 8pm  
May 12 - 11am - 7pm  
Info: Jean Buczynski (626) 966 - 0361  
Email: [jviolet@mindspring.com](mailto:jviolet@mindspring.com)

**May 11 - CALIFORNIA**

Fancy Bloomers AVS Mother's Day Sale  
Coddington Mall  
Guernville Rd. at Hwy. 101  
Hours: 10am - 4pm or until sold out  
Info: Byron Borck (707) 527 - 8362

**May 10 & 11 - LOUISIANA**

Top Choice AVC of Shreveport Mother's Day Sale  
Barnwell Center, Wafer Room  
Shreveport, LA  
Both Days: 1pm - 5pm

**May 10 - WISCONSIN**

Crosstown & Sundowners Clubs Sale  
Olbrich Botanical Gardens  
3350 Atwood Ave.  
Madison, WI  
Hours: 10am - 4pm  
Info: Alice Peterson (608) 833 - 5552

**May 10 - FLORIDA**

Suncoast AVC Sale  
St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church  
3747 34th St.  
St. Petersburg, FL  
Info: Sue McFarlan (727) 866 - 8830

**May 11 - CANADA**

AVS of Greater Montreal Show/Sale  
Church of Resurrection  
99 Mount Pleasant Ave.  
Point Elaine, Que.  
Hours: 10am - 4pm  
Info: Anne Herbatuk (450) 667 - 1976

**May 26 - CANADA**

Toronto AVS Show/Sale  
Civic Garden Centre  
Edwards Gardens  
777 Lawrence Ave. E  
Toronto, ON  
Hours: 11am - 5pm  
Info: Jean Hamilton  
(416) 491 - 9719 after 6pm



# My Views On Fertilizer

by Renee Trenholm

Back in the 70s, when I first began growing African violets, virtually everyone I came across used Peter's 15-30-15 fertilizer at 1/4 teaspoon per gallon (the manufacturers suggested strength was 1 teaspoon per gallon). Consequently, I used that fertilizer religiously. It worked beautifully, too. At that time, my husband and I were quite active in African violet shows and we received many ribbons and awards for our plants. I never alternated fertilizers or changed brands. The formulation may have been a little different then because we always wick-watered our African violets but they did not readily get the crusty buildup on the edges of the pots even though we failed to leach as often as was recommended.

We had stopped raising African violets in the mid-80s and started back two years ago. I had to think back and jog my memory as to how to care for them. Once again, I started using Peters 15-30-15 fertilizer, which proves that old habits die hard! Some time later I joined the Gesneriophiles e-mail list and read all the fertilizer recommendations posted there. There has been some controversy about the various fertilizers, their formulations, and especially the question of urea nitrogen. Being older and somewhat wiser, it finally dawned on me that just because we used a certain fertilizer twenty-five years ago, that wasn't necessarily the best one for us to use now. While researching the various brands of fertilizer and trying to avoid urea nitrogen, I came across Optimara 14-12-14 fertilizer. Having had 15-30-15 embedded in my brain, I had never even thought of trying a different formulation. The 14-12-14

sounded like the perfect solution for my plants because it works on the premise of giving the plants time to develop healthy leaves and roots before they have to put their energy into blooming. We don't show our plants anymore (too old and lazy, I guess), so there was nothing to lose by trying the Optimara 14-12-14 fertilizer. About five months ago, I ordered a one-pound container and began using it on all our African violets, as well as all our other gesneriads. The manufacturer's recommendation is 1/2 teaspoon per gallon, but I use 1/4 teaspoon per gallon, preferring to err on the side of caution. It is used for all stages of growth, from rooting leaves to mature plants. I feel more comfortable with this fertilizer because I don't feel like I'm trying to rush my plants into bloom at the expense of healthy foliage. The mature plants are all blooming quite well and I am pleased with the results I get with the 14-12-14 formulation.

If you want to test the merits of other fertilizers on your plants, I suggest that you set aside a few test plants to try the different fertilizers so you'll only lose a few plants if the experiment doesn't work out as you had hoped. Ideally, use different fertilizers on the same hybrids and see which fertilizer gives you the desired results. I hope this spurs your curiosity about fertilizers and that you won't wait 25 years, as I did, to try something new.

From The *Dixie News*

## Streptocarpus

by Ina Beaver • Canada

After much experimenting, I found that my streps prefer cool temperatures, natural light, and larger pots than most gesneriads. Mine do best on the south-facing window in my kitchen. But, they sunburn badly in direct sunshine from April to early November so I place white tissue paper behind them on a sunny day. The larger leaves tend to droop so I raise them up on whatever I have on hand.

To reproduce streps, snap off a healthy leaf, shave off some of the leaf to make a stem, slice three inches or so from the larger leaf, and plant as you would an African violet leaf. Baggie this until roots have formed and grow. It should make one or two plants.

The rest of the leaf has the mid rib removed with a sterile razor blade, and the cutting is placed on its side in a little trench in moist African violet soil. Make sure that each vein has contact with the soil, and cover with a baggie until rooted. When plantlets are large enough to separate, I usually slice the tip of the mother leaf as well if it's still attached, gently pulling the little plantlet off with its attached roots. Warning! You may end up with more plantlets than you

need. These are great to share with friends.

Each miniature leaf will make several blossom stalks near the soil line. When it stops producing bloom stacks remove the leaf. If you want a lush potful, plant three streps to a pot.

My streps prefer being dried out, but not to the wilt stage, before watering. They like a balanced diet of 20-20-20.

My personal favorites are the Bristol series by Ralph Robinson, *S.* 'Christmas Morning', a dwarf strep, *S.* 'By Golly', and the miniature *S.* 'Jiminy Cricket'.

I really admire Martin Konhardt of Wahroonga, Natal, Republic of South Africa. He has almost single-handedly given us so many species. Martin collects *Streptocarpus* species in the wild, grows them on, and sends seeds to the American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society for us to share. Even total destruction of his shadehouses in a weird snow-storm in July 1996 didn't deter him. He rebuilt and began all over again when lesser people would have given up.

From *Chatter*, publication of the AVS of Canada

# Powdery Mildew

by Keith Lind

In previous articles I have dealt with organisms that depend on six or eight legs or other mechanical means of transport. Now I will attempt to talk about the ones that don't use the traditional means of transport.

First of these is powdery mildew, and this is regarded as a disease. It is a whitish grey deposit which forms on leaves and flower stalks of African violets, and as the name suggests, looks like powder. It develops at random on leaves. In most cases, it starts as a light white film in a generally round formation. Some leaves can have several such formations, or I suppose you could call them colonies, which spread into one another, joining in such a fashion that some leaves become completely covered. Plants affected develop a decidedly mushroom type of smell. When viewed under a fairly strong magnifying glass, powdery mildew resembles a heap of tiny threads of cotton wool thrown together so that the threads intertwine and curl around one another. The heaps become so dense that the leaf area covered is prevented from absorbing light, which is an essential part of the leaf's function. The tiny tentacles from the colonies absorb nutrients from the leaf surface and thus the surface leaf cells are damaged. Powdery mildew is actually caused by a tiny fungus, the spores of which are continually floating around in the air. When conditions are favorable, they begin to grow on a suitable host. It seems not to matter whether they are grown under natural light or artificial light, indoors or semi-outdoors. Regardless of

seasons or weather conditions, powdery mildew can be a problem. Prevention is extremely difficult, but it is generally agreed that good air circulation does provide some protection. Fans are used by many growers for this purpose, and some say they have little or no problem with powdery mildew.

Some sprays are helpful in combating the problem, but they should only be used when there is a problem and not used as a preventative measure. Sprays that have a powder base generally leave a residue which, although not damaging to plants, can cause unsightliness and even render plants unsuitable for show purposes.

In small collections and where only minor infection is noted, the powdery mildew may be removed by a fine brush. A light dusting with sulphur and brushing off can also be of some help. I have also used a mild solution of detergent as a spray with some success.

When flowers and flower stalks have been affected, virtually nothing short of complete removal of the affected part is of any use. Sprays may partly control the mildew but will ruin the flower petals, while brushing is completely out of the question. My advice is to inspect your plants as often as possible and deal with the problem as quickly as possible to avoid further damage.

From "The African Violet", Official Journal of the  
AV Association of Australia, Inc.

## WHERE DO YOUR VIOLETS PERFORM THEIR BEST?

by Jenny White

In growing African violets, one thing that proves itself over and over again is that some varieties prefer a special place on the shelf and will do exceptionally well if left to grow there all the time. Perhaps this could vary from grower to grower depending on the different conditions created for them.

One particular violet for which I find this is 'Viking Maiden'. It always likes the same place to grow to its full potential. I do not get the same results if it is moved anywhere else on the stand.

If you have an African violet which is not looking "happy", providing there is not some existing cultural problem, try moving it around on the shelf until you see a definite improvement in growth. Follow the general rule that lighter leaf plants go to the outer edge of the lights, darker ones to the center. I have been amazed by the difference in the condition and performance of the plant.

Joan Halford, author of "Growing African Violets in South Africa", mentioned this point during a lecture at the convention in Denver. She marks the area on the shelf for the varieties that like a certain spot on which to grow. Actually, I have proved that this not only applies to standards; some minis, trailers and gesneriads have their special preferences also.

I have a great love for episcias and get a lot of satisfaction from getting them to perform well. I am often asked what methods I use. Once again, find the warmest shelf, and then move them around until you see the best results, keeping the silvery leaved varieties more to the edge of the lights and deeper colors to the center.

I pin stolons down as soon as they are long enough to reach the potting mix and prune off all excess stolons, giving them a neat, compact appearance. *Episcias* can very easily appear untidy if neglected and do not look nearly as attractive as with proper grooming. Apart from the very hot middle of summer, some plastic is kept around the stand to keep in the warmth and humidity, necessary to maintain the lovely lush leafy growth that makes them look so beautiful. No wonder they are known as the "peacocks" of the gesneriad family.

*Sinningias* require much the same conditions as *episcias*. With lots of humidity and moisture, they will bloom well for a long time. Very small *Sinningia* prefer a good center spot near the lights. Unfortunately, there is insufficient area left to grow our *Streptocarpus* under lights, which in my opinion, makes them produce lovely, strong-colored blooms and clean, deep green foliage.

# THRIPS!

by Charles Cole

Some of the most annoying sucking pests of African violets are the thrips. Several species will feed on and reproduce on violets. Because of their small size, they can be very difficult to find on a plant and may go undetected for a long period of time. Control of some species can be difficult.

## Description and Identification

Thrips are minute, slender-bodied insects which range in size from 0.5-5 mm in length. These pests are very common, and they often occur in enormous numbers. There are many species and they range in color from yellow to tan, brown or black. The most common species found on violets are yellow.

Thrips are generally winged in the adult stage. They have four long, narrow wings which are fringed with long hairs, giving them a feather-like appearance. Just as in other insects, the immature forms do not have wings, but small wing pads begin to form on the immature forms of the winged species as they approach maturity.

## Life History and Habits

Most thrips reproduce by laying eggs. The eggs are small, white and somewhat pear-shaped. They are deposited into plant tissue or into cracks and crevices on the plant. Each female will deposit 50-250 eggs, depending upon species and environmental factors. The eggs hatch into tiny white or yellowish larvae. The larvae feed about fifteen days before pupating. A life cycle may be completed in eleven to twenty-six days, and they produce several generations in a year. Generations overlap, and all life stages can generally be found on a plant at any given time. Although thrips are not active out of doors during the winter, reproduction can be continuous in the homes or greenhouse.

Thrips occur naturally on most trees, shrubs, weeds and even grasses, especially when the plants are in bloom. Adults are quite active, and winged thrips fly from place to place in search of food or oviposition sights. In the spring, large swarms of thrips can be observed in the air. They often are found in large numbers on clothes hanging on a line, or on windows of homes and automobiles.

## Damage

Some species are scavengers, feeding on decaying plant material or fungi. Others are predaceous, feeding on mites, plant-feeding thrips, and other small insects. Many species feed on pollen, flowers, or plant foliage. These are capable of causing severe tissue damage and may also transmit some plant diseases.

Both adult and immature forms are capable of damaging violets. The damage occurs when they pierce the tissue of

leaves and flowers. They then suck up the plant juices from the ruptured cells. Severe infestations can destroy leaf or flower buds.

## Symptoms of Infestation

Leaves damaged by thrips may form a corky, scar-like tissue. Damage may show up as streaked or irregular areas with a silvered appearance. Continued feeding may result in curled or deformed leaf growth.

One of the early symptoms of thrips is the presence of pollen on petals or on leaves. This is the results of thrips feeding in the blossoms. Care must be taken as not to confuse this with the natural pollen shed from mature blossoms.

## Infestation and Spread

Infestations may be acquired from cut flowers or potted plants brought into the area where violets are cultured. Infestations may also result from thrips brought in on clothing, equipment, in a person's hair, or on the fur of pets. Their small size allows thrips to move freely through window and door screens or any small crevice in a home or greenhouse.

Violets should be checked periodically for thrips. This may be accomplished by thumping blossoms and watching for thrips activity. Blossoms may be held against a piece of paper and thumped sharply several times to dislodge thrips if present.

Once an infestation is established, it will spread rapidly throughout a culture. Adults are quite active, and they readily fly from plant to plant in search of food and oviposition sights. It is not unusual to find a greenhouse infested from one end to the other before numbers are high enough to detect either damage or the thrips themselves.

## Prevention and Cultural Control

Preventing thrips from infesting plants can be extremely difficult. At times, it seems the only way to prevent thrips is to grow your plants under sterile isolated conditions with airlocks between your culture and the out of doors. Some tips which help prevent infestations include the following:

- 1) Avoid introducing contaminated plants into your culture.
- 2) Check fresh cut flowers or blooming potted plants thoroughly before bringing them into a home or greenhouse where violets are cultured.
- 3) When bringing pets in from out-of-doors, especially during the spring or summer, inspect them thoroughly and brush any hitch-hiking thrips from their fur.
- 4) After working in the home landscape, brush clothing and hair to remove thrips before coming into contact with your violets.



## Chemical Control

Do not panic when you discover a thrips infestation on your violets. Low to moderate numbers are tolerated by plants with little or no damage. Many times, infestations occur and then die out without the grower ever knowing thrips were present. Heavy infestations may severely damage plants, especially the blossoms. Infestations should be treated if they persist. As show plants must be free of insects and blossoms must be in optimum condition, extra care should be taken prior to showing violets. All plants should be inspected

seven to ten days prior to showing, and treatment should be made if thrips are found. Infestations of some species may be controlled with a simple application of insecticide. If only adults are found, and no immature thrips can be detected on the plants, then one application will generally give excellent control. As a rule, if immature thrips are found, it will take two to three applications of an insecticide at five to seven days intervals to achieve control.

From "Insect and Mite Pests of African Violets"



# PESTS

by Keith Lind



Springtails are tiny elongated insects that have a device protruding from their rear ends that permits them to flip about on wet or very moist surfaces. They are mostly found underneath pots of plants and on lids of reservoirs or on the surface of water in reservoirs. These insects appear to cause no damage to African violets as they feed on decaying organic matter such as peat moss used in the potting mix. However, when they appear in really large numbers, their presence can cause the pots and reservoirs to become somewhat unsightly and, to the unwary, can be mistaken for soil mealy bug.

Control can be achieved by spraying with Malathion, but complete eradication is almost impossible. Regular repotting in sterilized potting mix does prevent springtails from getting out of control.

Cockroaches may not be considered by many growers to be a pest, but this insect seems to defy all attempts at eradication and African violets are not exempt from their attention. I find that they are very partial to the pollen from the stamens of the flowers, and often petals are damaged by their scrummaging. The adult females deposit their egg sacs in the potting mix close to the edge of the inside of the pot. The conditions are ideal for the incubation of the eggs in the egg sacs, and the baby cockroaches can often be seen vacating the "nursery" when the potting mix is disturbed. A good insect spray will kill cockroaches reasonably fast once they are seen, but care should be taken that none of the spray comes in contact with your plants. Baits are quite effective, but should be renewed frequently.

Not many growers would be worried by infestations of Cockchafer or white curl grubs, but I know one person who had an interesting experience. Each morning, he found a

heap of potting mix had been dislodged from his favorite African violet and deposited on the table. He decided to investigate, and turned the African violet out of the pot and found fifteen large white curl grubs who had almost completely replaced plant roots and potting mix. His mix had obviously not been sterilized, so the lesson here is to use good sterilized potting mix.

White flies are a pest of many garden plants and are not averse to occasionally attacking African violets. They are very small and white and actually look like moths. They take to the air when disturbed but settle again when the coast is clear. Like aphids, white flies are sap suckers and cause yellowing of leaves and a general appearance of lack of vitality. Spraying, or placing pest strips at strategic points affords some control of this pest.

Nematodes are responsible for distortions in root systems when the roots form swellings and nodules. In some cases, African violet trunks and also some leaf petioles are affected. Nematodes are very tiny worms which move through the soil until a suitable host plant is available. Therefore, it is essential to sterilize potting mix and to avoid reusing mix which may be infected. The treatment of potting mix with Nematicur is the only chemical control to my knowledge. Believers in companion planting tell us that marigolds repel nematodes and when their roots are used with composting material, good results have been achieved. Here is a challenge for someone to test this theory on African violets.

From "The African Violet", production of the  
AV Association of Australia, Inc.

# AVSA ADVERTISING GUIDELINES

Judith M. Carter, Advertising Manager

## AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE

Advertising Rates, Mechanicals & Deadlines

### Deadlines

Jan/Feb issue	Nov 15	Jul/Aug issue	May 15
Mar/Apr issue	Jan 15	Sep/Oct issue	Jul 15
May/June issue	Mar 15	Nov/Dec issue	Sep 15

**Mechanicals & Rates:** One Column (3-5/16" ) Two Column (6-3/4")

### REGULAR ADVERTISING

AD SIZE -	COMMERCIAL MEMBERS	ALL OTHERS
3 5/16 IN WIDE	\$30	\$33
1 INCH	\$50	\$55
2 INCH	\$70	\$77
3 INCH	\$90	\$99
4 INCH	\$22.40 PER IN.	\$25.00 PER IN.
5 INCH TO 9 1/4 INCH	\$95	\$104.50
1/4 PAGE BLACK & WHITE	\$175	\$192.50
1/2 PAGE BLACK & WHITE	\$345	\$379.50
FULL PAGE BLK & WHITE	\$475	\$522.50
1/4 PAGE COLOR	\$595	\$654.50
FULL PAGE COLOR		

Advertiser provides color separations.

**Special - Buy 5 ads and receive the 6<sup>th</sup> ad free when all 6 ads are paid in full in advance. All ads should be same size. Content of ad can change for each issue.**

### CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

15 word/\$15.00 Minimum. Each additional word \$1; series of numbers count as a word. Purchase 5 ads and receive the 6th ad free. All classified ads must be same text and paid for in advance. **NO PROOF SUBMITTED BEFORE PUBLICATION. Deadlines will be the same as those listed for the regular advertising section.**

### INTERNET WEB PAGE

Any current advertiser or commercial member in good standing may have his/her business listed on the AVSA Web Page Vendor List and also may have a "hot" link to his page if he provides a reciprocal link to the AVSA page. No process has yet been developed to place advertising on the Internet at this time.

Checks made payable to The AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, Inc. (AVSA) must accompany ad copy. Agency commission and cash discount not allowed. Inquiries for color ads - contact Advertising Manager. You need not be an AVSA member to advertise.

**Commercial Membership** - \$32.00 per year (USA) \$33.75 per year (International). Make check payable to AVSA. Membership check should be provided separately from advertising cost. Pictures can be included at no extra cost. No copy or pictures can be returned. All copy must be typewritten. **NO PROOF SUBMITTED BEFORE PUBLICATION.** If proof required submit camera-ready copy.

### VISA or MasterCard

AVSA now accepts VISA or MasterCard for payment of ads that appear in the AVM. Want to save some money? Prepay for five consecutive ads either by check or charge, and receive the sixth ad free. Advertising copy may be changed in this category.

### Commercial versus Non-Commercial

Advertisers no longer need to be commercial or non-commercial members of AVSA in order to place an ad. The product or service must be plant-related to qualify. This rule is perfect for an advertiser who would like to "test the waters" before going into a full-scale advertising campaign. Prices for non-commercial advertisers are 10% higher than those for our commercial membership. Unless the advertiser is already a member of AVSA, he/she would not receive a copy of the AVM nor be eligible for any of the other benefits of membership in AVSA.

Example:

1" ad Commercial Member	\$30.00
1" ad Non-Commercial	\$33.00

One year (six issues) of non-commercial ads will cost an additional \$15.00 for ads.

Full page Black & White for Commercial Member	\$345.00
Full page Black & white for Non-Commercial Member	\$379.50

One year (six issues) of non-commercial ads will cost an additional \$172.50 for ads.

### Four-Color Advertising

The AVM is now accepting four-color ads. Ads will be accepted in two sizes.

One Half Page Commercial Member	\$475.00
Non-Commercial	\$522.50
Full Page Commercial Member	\$595.00
Non-Commercial	\$654.50

The customer must provide the color separations for the copy.

### Classified Advertising

- Looking for a home for your old copies of the AVM?
- Moving and don't have room for that third plant stand?
- Your club is selling violet key rings as a fund raiser?
- Small commercial grower: Violet lovers travel everywhere to find new plants. Do you go unnoticed and lose business because you feel you can't afford a large ad in the AVM?
- Large commercial grower: Even though you would like to see your ad in every issue, do you settle for fewer appearances?

Why not try out a classified ad to address your situation? The classified advertising may be used by commercial and individual members, clubs, groups and non-members. AVSA individual members advertising in this section will not be considered "commercial" advertisers.

### WHERE DO I SEND MY AD?

**Regular Advertisements and Classified Advertisements**

Judith M. Carter, Advertising Manager  
1825 W. Lincoln St.  
Broken Arrow, OK 74012  
Phone: (918) 355-8020  
email: AVMads@msn.com

Please leave a phone number where you may be reached.

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 X COLTRICHANTHA 'MIDGET', Sep p 37

## ATTENTION AFFILIATE CLUBS

**Beginning June 1, 2002, ALL Library Slide and  
 Video Reservations MUST be made in**

**WRITING - either by FAX (409.839.4329),**

**Email [avs@earthlink.net](mailto:avs@earthlink.net), or Postal Delivery to:**

**AVSA Library, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702**

# VISIT THE AVSA'S WEBSITE: [www.AVSA.org](http://www.AVSA.org)



## Terrific Discounts for African Violet Clubs! Full Color African Violet Note Cards from [UAreSoBeautiful.com](http://UAreSoBeautiful.com)

call to order 888-286-0365 toll free

We grow and photograph our own African Violets! Now we can share our images with you on note cards. Each card is 4.25" x 5.5". A pack of 10 cards sells for \$9.00 plus S&H. Cards are packaged in a clear vinyl box and they make a beautiful gift. Choose one style or an assortment. We invite you to visit us on the web at [UAreSoBeautiful.com](http://UAreSoBeautiful.com) to view our complete catalog of images and products. Or call toll free to order or receive further information. Personalizing is available. Satisfaction guaranteed.

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New and older varieties of African violets, from leading hybridizers, and our own new plants. All orders before November 1 will receive 2 FREE PLANTS with every 12 plants ordered. Send \$2 for our new 2002 catalog, or order from our ad in the January issue of AVM. Try our **super special** 12 Husky Starters - all different - \$40 Postpaid - All plants **our choice** (Does not include 2 FREE PLANTS) VISA - MASTERCARD - List all info on card - Min. card order \$36. See our web page: [www.angelfire.com/ga3/travisviolets/](http://www.angelfire.com/ga3/travisviolets/) AD EXPIRES 11/30/2002

## LOOKING FOR ORCHID INFORMATION? LOG ON!



Interact with other eager orchid enthusiasts by clicking on Orchid Forum at *OrchidWeb*®, developed especially as an information exchange platform for orchid growers throughout the world. The American Orchid Society's popular Web site has extensive plant-care tips, inspiring photographs, a calendar of orchid events and other helpful orchid information.

Founded in 1921, the AOS is the world's number-one orchid information source — just ask 30,000 members worldwide. On-site membership application is available along with convenient, secured shopping in The AOS BookShop and Orchid Emporium.

The American Orchid Society  
Dept. AV/MAG, 16700 AOS Lane  
Delray Beach, FL 33446-4351  
Telephone (561) 404-2000 Fax (561) 404-2100  
Email: theAOS@aos.org Web site: orchidweb.org

You know African Violets - now meet the rest of the family...

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Quarterly journal, extensive seed fund, judging schools, round robins, annual convention, plus a copy of "How to Know & Grow Gesneriads"

**Individual membership - \$20.00**

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Please send check, money order, or credit card information to:

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Bob Clark  
118 Byron Ave.  
Lawrence, MA 01841-4444  
membership@aggs.org

Visit us online: <http://www.aggs.org>

### A SAMPLING OF WHAT WE WILL HAVE IN YOUR 2002 CATALOG. SHIPPING BEGINS SOON



AND WE WILL BE HAPPY TO DELIVER PLANTS TO YOU AT THE  
DIXIE CONVENTION IN MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA MARCH 20 TO 23.

**STORK - CHIPPEWA** - Single/semidbl vivid coral star with medium green, plain foliage. This is a pretty one. Standard.  
**PITTMAN - ALAMO RUBY** - Double red blossoms that stand above the dark green foliage! This standard is a real eye catcher.

**SORANO - FROZEN IN TIME** - White pansy shaped, blossoms accented by a wide band of deep green flecked with lighter green speckles. Green and white variegated foliage. See this one on the front cover of the Nov/Dec issue of the AVSA mag.

**BROWNLIE - ACA'S SIZZLER** - Semidouble red blossoms above nice variegated foliage of dark green, cream and pink foliage. Semiminiature.

**HANCOCK - BUCKEYE CHITCHAT** - Lavender/purple pansies. Variable purple fantasy and ruffled edge. Dark green cream and pink variegated foliage. Standard.

**We have a good supply of the plant CHICAGO FLARE available.** We have trailers. New and older varieties that have returned to our shelves. Catalog available for \$2.00. Plants of the customers choice \$4.00 each with a minimum of 6 plants per order. Shipping and handling on up to 6 plants \$8.00, 40 cents per plant shipping over 6.

**LEAVES: SHIRLEY'S CHOICE** - 24 for \$24.00 or 50 for \$44.00. Shipping on leaves - \$6.00 for up to 50. Over this number add 10 cents per leaf. **Plants requested delivered to the Dixie Convention will be at convention prices.** Special orders must be received prior to March 10.

**We will begin shipping the latter part of March and early April where weather permits.**

**Make checks payable to: Shirley Sanders**

**1034 Rayburn Dr. • San Antonio, TX 78221 • (210) 923-1093**

**Sorry we do not accept credit cards.**

## Save the Wild Saintpaulia

*Will the Wild African Violet Survive?*

Wild Saintpaulia species are found only in a very limited habitat in a handful of mountain and coastal rainforests known by scientists as the Eastern Arc. Much of the Arc rainforests have been destroyed by man.

*The Arc Project of the Tanzania Wildlife Fund is preserving and regenerating the Saintpaulia habitat. You can play a critical role.*

Friend (*Rafiki*) of Saintpaulia - \$10

Patron (*Mhifadi*) of Saintpaulia - \$25

Guardian (*Mlezi*) of Saintpaulia - \$50 or more

*Donations are Tax Deductible made to:*

*Tanzania Wildlife Fund · 645 Madison Ave., Suite 2001  
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Send first class stamp for cultural information or \$3.00 for a sample of our color quarterly journal.

### THE CRYPTANTHUS SOCIETY

Carole Richtmyer - Secretary  
18814 Cypress Mountain Drive  
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Specials Price List \$1.00



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## Our Customers say it best...

Dear Dyna-Gro,

I am writing this letter to tell you how much I like your fertilizer. ...Sonja Johnson in Omaha, Arkansas, sold me some Dyna-Gro Liquid Grow and Liquid Bloom for my violets.

I watered the show plants with the Bloom and the baby plants with the Grow. In two weeks the baby plants had doubled in size and had a pretty green color.

I entered 31 plants in the show. Those plants received 10 best in class, the Sweepstakes award, the Best Collection award, 30 blue ribbons and 1 red ribbon. That plant was a trailer and didn't have three crowns.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Bailey  
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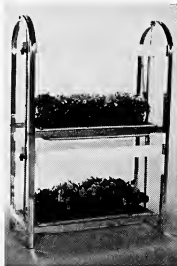
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African violets know no borders, so why not  
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**AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY  
OF CANADA**

and receive *Chatter*, its quarterly publication?

A magazine dedicated to the growing and showing of African  
violets and Gesneriads. USA/International membership \$14.00.

Please make your cheque or bank draft payable to AVSC  
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Mrs. Irene Henry  
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*The Association for plant &  
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Quarterly Magazine

Growing & Maintenance

Help & Advice

**Hobby Greenhouse Association**

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Dues: USA \$19 (*Canada and Mexico, \$21 US funds/MO*)

(*\$22 Overseas, US funds/MO*)

Sample magazine \$3.50

Directory of Greenhouse Manufacturers \$2.50

African - violet and  
**Gesneriad NEWS**

\$15 per year or \$25 for two years (Outside Canada read as US dollars)  
John Beaulieu Productions e-mail [gesnews@bconnex.net](mailto:gesnews@bconnex.net)  
Box 118, Midhurst, ON L0L 1X0 CANADA



## Violet Showcase Potting Medium

Our Potting Medium is a mixture of sifted sphagnum peat moss, coarse vermiculite, coarse perlite, horticultural charcoal, dolomite lime and trace elements. PH approximately 6.5. This soilless medium, which we mix ourselves, is used for all of our violets and other gesneriads. It is packaged dry. Moisten it thoroughly at a rate of 1 cup very hot water per quart of medium before using. Thousands of users report success with our medium growing by wicking, capillary matting, Oyama Planters, Swift's Moist Rites, and ceramic "soak thru" pots. We use it both for starter plants and full grown plants.

**3 Qt. Bag: \$2.99**

**9 Qt. Bag: \$6.99**

**40 Qt. Bag: \$24.89**

(Colorado addresses add 2.9% tax) Shipping charges: Orders totaling up to \$3.00 add \$6.50 shipping; orders totaling between \$3.01 and \$7.00, add \$7.50 shipping; orders totaling over \$7.01 add \$10.00 shipping. Orders for more than 40 qts combined total will be invoiced at prevailing catalog prices and shipping costs. **This ad expires July 31, 2002.**

**Special Offer.** Sample bag (1 Quart) \$5.00, shipping included. All prices and shipping charges are for U.S. addresses. Checks, Money Orders, MasterCard, VISA, and Discover Card accepted. Mail your order or phone (303) 761-1770 during shop hours: 10 AM to 5 PM [Mountain Time] Mon. or Wednesdays thru Saturdays. Closed Sundays + Tuesdays. Fax (24 hours a day) (302) 762-1808. Free copy of our supplies catalog/violet list sent with order or send for free copy. Customers outside the US please send \$2 for our catalog/list. *In business since 1969.*

Visit our web page at [www.violetshowcase.com](http://www.violetshowcase.com)

**THE VIOLET SHOWCASE**  
3147 SOUTH BROADWAY ENGLEWOOD, COLORADO 80110





**BELISLE'S**  
Heirloom Violets  
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Mail Order Catalog \$2.00

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### VIOLET GALLERY

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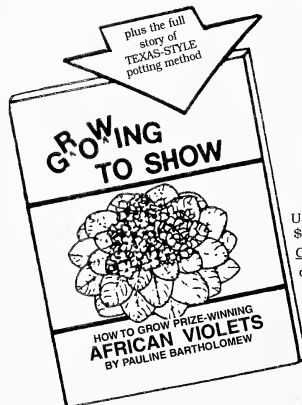
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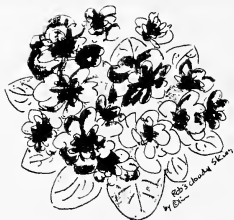
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# African Violet

*The magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.*

May • June 2002

Volume 55

Number 3



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# African Violet

The Magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.

May • June

Volume 55

Number 3

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### COVER

#### Rhapsodie Stephanie

From Best

Holtkamp Collection

2001 AVSA National Show

Exhibited by: **Kathy Lahti**

Hybridized by: **Holtkamp**  
Standard



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretzky

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### OFFICERS:

**Jack Wilson**, President  
10007 Bent Tree Ln., Manassas, VA 20111  
email: cagmo@aol.com

**Janet Riemer**, 1st VP  
256 Pennington-Harbourton Rd.  
Pennington, NJ 08534-4007  
email: JTRiemer@aol.com

**Linda Owens**, 2nd VP  
1762 Sternwood Dr., Columbus, OH 43228  
email: Ldowens215@aol.com

**Joyce Stork**, 3rd VP  
2501 E. 23rd Ave. S, Fremont, NE 68025  
email: Kents@tvsonline.net

**Sue Ramser**, Secretary  
2413 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308  
email: ramserwf@aol.com

**Gary Gordon**, Treasurer  
120 Brinkwood Rd., Brookville, MD 20833  
email: ggordon120@aol.com

**Bill Foster**, Immediate Past President  
3610 Gray Drive, Mesquite, TX 75150  
email: bpfoster@airmail.net

### STAFF:

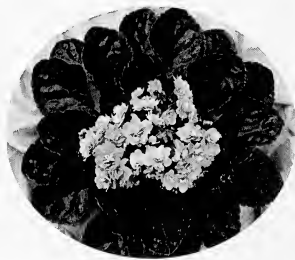
**Ruth Rumsey**, Editor  
2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702  
email: rumsey@earthlink.net

**Judith Carter**, Advertising Manager  
1825 W. Lincoln St., Broken Arrow, OK 74012  
email: AVMads@msn.com

**Barbara Pershing**, Publications  
8134 Buck Ridge, Cedar Falls, IA 50613  
email: barbara.pershing@uni.edu

**Floyd Lawson**, Best Varieties, Honor Roll  
1100 W. Huntington Dr., #21, Arcadia, CA 91007  
email: floydll@earthlink.net

**Anna Jean Landgren**, Tally Time  
20 Calvin Circle, Evanston, IL 60301  
email: geocaj@aol.com



Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.



# President's Message



Dear AVSA Members,

It is not too late to register for the 2002 Washington, DC AVSA convention and join hundreds of your violet friends for what is promising to be a fantastic time. Get your paperwork into the AVSA office immediately so you are not left out. **You** are needed to make the show and convention the best ever.

We have questions from time-to-time on how our AVM is shipped from Beaumont. **All** the magazines go to the post office at the same time, typically the week prior to issue month. They are then shipped around the country/world for sorting and distribution. Since they are sent bulk rate, they do not receive first class sorting priority. This, along with the various postal sorting at various post offices your AVM goes through will determine how quickly you receive your magazine. Add in the additional delays because of added postal security and you can see that sometimes magazines are going to be delayed. Our office staff and printer make every effort to ensure you receive them promptly. Unfortunately, there are slowdowns in the postal system that we have no control over.

We had a recent change in the columnist for our articles on other members of the gesneriad family. Georgene Albrecht is now writing on gesneriads. We welcome her back as one of our regular writers. Dale Martens who wrote the *Gesneri-Advice* column, is taking a break from writing duties. We thank both of these knowledgeable ladies for sharing their expertise and love for these beautiful plants.

Two other changes are also in process. Joe Bruns has assumed the chairmanship of the Master List of Species & Cultivars Committee. Joe has been very active for AVSA with his entries program that has greatly simplified how we enter plants at our shows. His program has made it much easier and quicker for us to enter our show plants. It provides the judges and awards committee the facts and figures to do their work. He is also the author of our *First Class* program that provides the *Master Variety List* on diskette. I'm very excited about the new version that will be released this summer. It is super.

Janice Bruns will assume the chair of the Plant Registration & International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants Committee. This change will take place as soon as we get the records put on CDs.

Iris Keating and Lynn Lombard have worked very hard for the past 12 years to ensure that we have accurate records of our hybrids. We have been very fortunate in having members such as Iris and Lynn to chair committees that don't get much attention or publicity, but are vital to our society. We are also delighted that they will continue to assist Joe and Janice. Thanks ladies.

We have two major holidays in May and June: Mother's day on May 12th and Father's day on June 16th. These are both great opportunities to give a gift that will be enjoyed all year. I'm talking about an AVSA membership. You know how much you anticipate receiving each issue, so share that fun with the other growers in your family. A membership makes a great gift anytime.

Affiliates can help our membership by giving gift memberships to libraries, nursing homes, and those who may not be able to afford a membership. We need your help in increasing our membership numbers.

Make sure you are following the AVM deadlines information on the inside front cover. Each issue, we have people supplying information to be inserted after the stated deadlines. Please observe the deadlines.

Don't be disappointed by not being at the DC convention. This is one everyone wanted, so join us for a great time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Jack".

John E. (Jack) Wilson  
AVSA President



# Editor's Notes



Ruth Rumsey • 2375 North Street • Beaumont, Texas 77702  
(409) 839-4725 • email [rrumsey@earthlink.net](mailto:rrumsey@earthlink.net)

Many of you have called the office about delays in receiving your magazine. As the AVM is sent out at bulk rate, delivery is usually slower than First Class mail. Please give it a few days to get there. AVSA Office policy is this: a missing AVM will not be entered as a Claim, and a replacement sent, until the 21st of the issue release month. (Claims for this issue will be entered and sent on May 21st.)

You may also want to contact your local Post Master to see if the delay is on that end. All AVMs leave the Beaumont, Texas post office on the same day, at the same time.

There may be other factors contributing to a delay in you receiving the African Violet Magazine. So, I intend to do my best to get the AVM out earlier if possible.

As of the July issue, I am requesting that all contributors, columnists, and advertisers make an effort to get their submissions to me by the deadlines published on the inside front cover of this magazine. I have always tried to be accommodating, and most of you do adhere to the deadlines, but it's the last minute submissions and changes that delay my own production schedule.

## Advertisers:

Your ads should reach Judith Carter, AVM

**Advertising Manager, 1825 W. Lincoln St., Broken Arrow, OK 74012 by these dates:**

Jan/Feb issue - Nov 15	Jul/Aug issue - May 15
Mar/Apr issue - Jan 15	Sep/Oct issue - July 15
May/Jun issue - Mar 15	Nov/Dec issue - Sept 15

These dates were changed a couple of years ago to allow you another month of time to prepare your ad. Please follow these deadlines, as it will be impossible to insert another ad after the publishing process has begun.

## Coming Events:

**Your event notices MUST reach me by these dates:**

Jan/Feb issue - Nov 1	Jul/Aug issue - May 1
Mar/Apr issue - Jan 1	Sep/Oct issue - Jul 1
May/Jun issue - Mar 1	Nov/Dec issue - Sept 1

Even if you submit your Coming Event to the AVSA Web Site, PLEASE send to me as well. You may send your event notice by Fax 409.839.4329, Email [rrumsey@earthlink.net](mailto:rrumsey@earthlink.net), or conventional mail, AVSA Coming Events, 2375 North, Beaumont, TX, 77702. Event information must be in writing, and will NOT be taken over the phone.

Happy Growing!

## How Much Does Your Plant Hobby Cost?

by Allison Brigham & David Jepsen • Denver, Colorado

Are you curious to know how much it costs each year to run the fluorescent lights for your African violets? Do you have an idea of the percentage of your monthly electrical usage associated with your plant hobby? It is easy to calculate. The results can be useful in deciding which plants to keep, give away, discard, or sell.

First, gather some basic information. What kind(s) of fixtures do you have? How many bulbs do you use? What is their wattage? How many hours (hr) a day are the lights on? Summarize this information in a simple table, itemizing different types of bulbs and photoperiods separately. For example, entries in the table might be four 20-watt bulbs on ten hr a day; twelve, 40-watt bulbs on ten hr a day; and six 40-watt bulbs on twelve hr a day. Look at your most recent bill from the power company. How much are you charged for a kilowatt-hour (kWh)? A kWh is the number of watts used by a shop light (or any appliance) multiplied by the number of hr used each day divided by 1,000.

Using this information, here is the cost calculation for a 48-inch, two-tube shop light (two 40-watt bulbs) that is lit 10 hr a day. We pay 7.1¢ (\$0.071) for a kWh of electricity here in Denver, Colo.

Calculations based on having a shop light on 10 hr a day:  
[(2 bulbs • 40 watts) • 10 hr]/1,000 • \$0.071 =

(80 watts • 10 hr a day/1,000) • \$0.071 =  
0.80 kWh/day • \$0.071 =

\$0.057 each day or \$20.73 for one shop light for 1 year (365 days).

Calculations based on having a shop light on for 12 hr a day:

[(2 bulbs • 40 watts) • 12 hr]/1,000 • \$0.071 =

(80 watts • 12 hr a day/1,000) • \$0.071 =  
0.96 kWh • \$0.071 =

\$0.068 each day or \$24.88 for one shop light for 1 year (365 days).

Did you suspect that running a single 48-inch shop light with two 40-watt bulbs 12 hr a day could cost nearly \$25 a year? Multiply that by the number of fixtures you use to have a good estimate of the annual electrical cost of your plant hobby.

This is another useful tool to evaluate plants in your collection. For example, eight standards grown on a 4-ft shelf with a 12-hr photoperiod is a financial commitment for electricity of about \$3.11 each a year here in Denver. No poor-performers at these costs! Do you sell enough plants to offset some cost? These calculations might convince you to become more active in local plant sales. If so, should you revisit the price you ask for plants? Your options are clear: you can grow fewer plants, sell more plants at club sales, or ignore the cost altogether. It is a hobby after all!

# Office Update



Jenny Daugereau • AVSA Office Administrative Coordinator

2375 North St.  
Beaumont, TX 77702  
email avsa@earthlink.net

(409) 839-4725  
(800) 770-2872

Within the next few weeks we will be meeting again for the annual AVSA National Convention. I look forward to seeing many of our members there. This year, I am very excited because not only do we expect the show to be one of the biggest and best ever, we will also be in our nation's capital. I have never been to Washington, DC and plan to see as much of it as I can. The tours sound so exciting. If you have not made your plans to go, it is still not too late. I hope to see you there.

I would like to thank the Beaumont African Violet Club for taking the time to report the African violets at the AVSA Office. I would also like to thank **Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Domingue, Glen and Iva Kertz and Alice Wilder** for the beautiful African violets they donated to our office collection. We have so many generous and kind members in our society.

During the summer months many of our affiliated clubs do not hold meetings, and many of our members leave their violets with trusted friends as they go on vacation. Things also slow down here at the AVSA office. Because the summer months are so slow for business, the AVSA Board decided to shorten the number of hours the AVSA office is open during this time of year. **Beginning July 1, 2002, and continuing**

**through September 30, 2002, our new summer hours will be from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm Central Standard Time.** Be sure to use our toll free number, 1-800-770-2872, to call us during the new hours. You can also reach me online at avsa@earthlink.net. You may contact our editor, **Ruth Rumsey**, at rumsey@earthlink.net. We will all be available to help you.

We have had several visitors to our office in the last few months. **Ben and Carol Moedt**, all the way from Canada, stopped by to visit. **Pat Sutton** from Oklahoma and **Barbara Pershing** from Iowa, also came by. **Anne Nicholas**, AVSA Library Chairman, drove over from Houston to take a look at the AVSA Library and discuss with the office staff how we can improve the Library for our members. **Laurie Cole, Norma Flyns, and Vicki Crider** stopped in on their way to help judge an African violet show in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. If you're out and about this summer and come close to Beaumont, please plan to drop by the AVSA Office. If you will be coming through before or after office hours, give us a call in advance and we will do our best to meet you here. We would love to see you!



## Schedule for Success: Sixteen Weeks before the Show

by Dorothy Kosowsky • Whittier, CA

When preparing for a show, you should be disbudding, feeding, misting, turning, and providing humidity. If you start with foliar feeding, continue on the present schedule.

With light, I start at ten hours and increase to fourteen hours, over a four month period, increasing 1/2 hour every two weeks. Lights should be on for twelve hours now. Mark your calendar for the following information:

**12 weeks** - Pot down any plant with a neck. Check for suckers and off-size leaves.

**10 weeks** - Continue disbudding, removing damaged or smaller-size leaves. Install one new tube only in each light fixture. Increase light hours by 1/2 hour to 13 1/2 hours at this point.

**8 weeks** - Disbud all doubles for the last time. Increase lights 1/2 hour to 14 hours and hold until show time. Start the bloom-booster fertilizers (12-55-6 or 5-50-17) at each watering and also use the 12-55-6 for foliar feeding.

**7 weeks** - Disbud semidoubles for the last time. (Some growers do all plants now with reasonable success.) Continue with the bloom-booster fertilizer. Check for suckers, necks, or

off-size leaves.

**6 weeks** - Disbud singles for the last time. Wash foliage, and check for suckers and nubs. Use bloom-booster for one last time, then return to your regular fertilizer (such as: 23-19-17, 20-20-20, 15-30-15).

**1 week** - Remove spent blossoms, all types of stubs, and suckers. Wash or brush off any soil or pet hair. Potting down a neck can be done if you use an inch or so of perlite in the bottom of your pot. Just brush away the perlite, return the plant to the same pot, and add soil. Mark the plant and be sure to repot it after the show.

**1 day** - REMOVE ALL SPENT BLOSSOMS, stubs, and any peduncles with just one or two blooms remaining. Check for suckers. Pack carefully. Slip potting is using a second clean pot of the same size with a bit of plastic, or foil in the bottom of the new pot to prevent leaking. Then drop in the plant.

Good luck! May you win lots of prizes.

*From the California Council News*

AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE 5

# For Beginners



**Al & Cathy Cornibe**  
197 Archer Drive  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
*e-mail: cathycornibe@aol.com*

Thank you for your kind emails. Please do not hesitate to email us if you have a question regarding one of our columns. If you don't have email, write us and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for a reply.

Although African violets are easy to grow, we wanted to pass along some of the most common mistakes that beginners make so you can avoid them.

SYMPTOMS	CAUSES	SUGGESTIONS
brown edges on leaves	build up of fertilizer salts in soil	remove excess fertilizer salts: 1. repot at least once a year using new soil 2. leach once per month note: leach means to run plain, lukewarm water (no fertilizer) through the soil of a plant for several seconds (throw this water away)
	humidity is too low	increase humidity: 1. use a vaporizer or humidifier 2. add water in trays or saucers near violets
plants are not growing as fast as they should be	extreme temperature changes	control temperatures as much as possible: 1. use a fan in the summer, as needed 2. use a heater in the winter, as needed
or	over or under-watering	keep soil moist (not too wet or too dry): 1. if soil stays too wet: a. add perlite to it b. add a layer of perlite in bottom of pot c. water less often 2. if soil stays too dry, water more often
blooming problems such as: buds don't open no blooms blooms die too fast less blooms than normal	humidity is too low	increase humidity: 1. use a vaporizer or humidifier 2. add water in trays or saucers near violets
	soil is too old, lacking nutrients	repot at least once a year using new soil
	too much fertilizer burned roots	reduce amount of fertilizer: 1. we only use 1/8th – 1/16th of a teaspoon of fertilizer per gallon of water 2. leach once per month
	needs fertilizer	fertilize plants on a regular basis
	pot is too large	African violets like to be root-bound: 1. for standards the pot should be 1/3rd of the plants' diameter

	insufficient light	<p>2. for minis and semiminis the pot should be 2 1/2 inches or less</p> <p>provide more light:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. if artificial light, increase hours a little at a time or move plants closer to the light</li> <li>2. if natural light, supplement with artificial light and/or trim bushes outside the window to allow more light in</li> </ol>
	drafty location	move plants to a different location
brittle leaves	too much light	<p>reduce light:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. if artificial light, reduce hours or, move plants farther from the light bulbs</li> <li>2. if natural light, try very sheer curtains to block some of the light or, move plant farther away from the window</li> </ol>
	too much chlorine or chloramine in the tap water	add drops (sold in pet shops) to remove the chlorine or chloramine
	over-watering	<p>keep soil moist (not too wet):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. if soil stays too wet: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. add perlite to it</li> <li>b. add a layer of perlite in bottom of pot</li> <li>c. water less often</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
	build up of fertilizer salts in soil	<p>remove excess fertilizer salts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. repot plants at least once a year</li> <li>2. leach once per month</li> </ol>
powdery mildew (white, dust-like powder on leaves, stems and flowers)	stagnant air	increase air circulation with a fan (but don't aim it directly on the plants)
	plants are too close together	leave an open space around each plant
	humidity is too high	reduce humidity to 40-60%
dirty leaves	dust settling on leaves	<p>remove dust (and pet hairs):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. gently brush leaves with a soft brush</li> <li>2. wash plant under a gentle stream of lukewarm water, remove excess water with a soft sponge – do not put plant under light until its leaves are dry</li> </ol> <p>Notes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. wash 1 plant to see how it works for you</li> <li>2. we only wash our green foliage varieties (we don't wash our variegated varieties, they tend to spot from the water in our area)</li> </ol>
propagation leaves die	incorrect leaves chosen	select only young, healthy, firm leaves
	over or under-watering	<p>keep mix moist (not too wet or too dry):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. if mix stays too wet: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. add perlite to it</li> <li>b. add a layer of perlite in bottom of pot</li> <li>c. water less often</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. if mix stays too dry, water more often</li> </ol>

	humidity is too low.	increase humidity: 1. use a vaporizer or humidifier 2. add water in trays or saucers near violets 3. put a baggie over the leaf, or put it in a clear, plastic shoebox
variegated foliage turns green	temperature is too hot	reduce temperature: 1. use a fan 2. don't run artificial lights (they give off heat) during the hottest part of the day 3. move plants to a lower shelf (it's cooler)
	too much nitrogen	use a fertilizer with less nitrogen (1st number on label, out of the 3 numbers)
plant has wilted or collapsed	over or under-watering	keep soil moist (not too wet or too dry): 1. if soil stays too wet: a. add perlite to it b. add a layer of perlite in bottom of pot c. water less often 2. if soil stays too dry, water more often
	temperature is too cold	increase temperature above 60 degrees: 1. use a heater 2. run artificial lights (they give off heat) at night to raise the temperature
	temperature is too hot	reduce temperature below 85 degrees: 1. use a fan 2. don't run artificial lights (they give off heat) during the hottest part of the day
	build up of fertilizer salts in soil	remove excess fertilizer salts: 1. repot plants at least once a year 2. leach once per month
	crown or root rot	avoid over-watering plants
green foliage is pale instead of normal lush, green color	needs fertilizer	fertilize plants on a regular basis
	insufficient light	provide more light: 1. if artificial light, increase hours a little at a time or move plants closer to the light 2. if natural light, supplement with artificial light and/or trim bushes outside the window to allow more light in
	nitrogen deficiency	use a fertilizer with more nitrogen (1st number out of the 3 numbers on label)
yellow "halo" on edges of leaves	nitrogen deficiency	use a fertilizer with more nitrogen
	iron deficiency	use a fertilizer that contains chelated iron
	gypsum deficiency	add gypsum to the soil
	soil is too old, lacking nutrients	repot at least once a year using new soil

# Vintage Violets



**Barbara Elkin**  
*Vintage Violets Committee*  
2855 Gayle Lane  
Auburn, CA 95602-9674  
email: [bjabar@earthlink.net](mailto:bjabar@earthlink.net)

There was an ad in our local newspaper for a cruise around the **ORIENT**. I approached my husband with great anticipation. All he said was, "NO! NO! NO!"

"Yes," I said, "we can go and I'll do research and you can write it off."

"There is no way you can write it off. Remember ENRON! NO! NO!" (That's one less "No" than before).

"You're not getting any younger. If you ever want to see these places now is the time."

"NO," he said.

## Travel Anyone?

Hey, I saw a crack in just one "NO".

Yes, you guessed it. When you read this, I will have spent twenty-nine days cruising the **ORIENT**.

By the way, my date with the ocean has been changed this year. We will be leaving in the middle of June instead of the first of July. The salmon will be waiting. September? Yes, another cruise.

What does this all mean? I might be just a bit late in answering your correspondence. Bear with me as I turn into a world traveler. You're only young once.

## AVSA Most Wanted Vintage Violets

Blue Wasp  
Country Lilacs

Lisa Louise  
Loverly

Mary Lou  
Marcella

Tye Dye  
Wedgewood Wasp

I know it's not new, but a NEW MEMBER is looking for Majesty. We have to take care of our new members don't we?

Remember to always return the postage, asked for or not.

## Washington, DC, Convention Parking and RV Parks

by Kenneth W. Barbi, Annapolis, Maryland

**Parking** - whether you stay at the hotel or just visit for the day, hotel parking is discounted to 50 percent the normal rate to AVSA Convention attendees, about \$10 per day. Parking allows you to come and go multiple times during the day. There is a 6' 8" height limitation in the underground garage. If your vehicle is oversized, you will have to park in the adjacent privately run Sun Park Airport Parking which has NO re-entry rights. There are many 2 hour maximum parking meters on the streets around the hotel for \$.25 for 20 minutes (\$2.50 for 2 hours), but NO other free on-street parking. If you are making a drop-off of convention or commercial materials, the convention hall loading dock is accessed through the regular underground parking at the front of the hotel and has the same height limit of 6' 8". If your vehicle is larger, the hotel has a truck loading dock on the airport side with a 13' 6" clearance. For more information, check with Wayne Coley, the Commercial Assistant Chairman.

**RV parks** - there is only one RV park within the area - Pohick Bay Regional Park Campground, at 6501 Pohick Bay

Drive, Lorton, Virginia, (703) 339-6104, 20 miles from the hotel and 11 miles from the Springfield Metro Station where you can board a train for Crystal City. Reservations for space at Pohick open on March 1, 2002. Further information can be found at [www.nvrpa.org/pohickcamp.html](http://www.nvrpa.org/pohickcamp.html).

There are also several Department of Defense bases and posts in Washington available to military beneficiaries. They are:

- Walter Reed Medical Center, Washington, DC, (301) 295-8019
- Andrews AFB, Maryland (301) 981-4109
- Annapolis Naval Station, Annapolis, Maryland, (410) 293-9200
- Quantico Marine Base, Quantico, Virginia, (703) 784-5270

Give them a call to make a reservation, and remember that tightened security will mean you will have to check at the gate for a pass if your vehicle is not registered at that specific location.

# Question Box



**Ralph Robinson**  
P.O. Box 9  
Naples, NY 14512  
email: [robsviolet@aol.com](mailto:robsviolet@aol.com)



**Dorothy Kosowsky**  
712 Cunningham Dr.  
Whittier, CA 90601  
email: [dot3joe@earthlink.net](mailto:dot3joe@earthlink.net)

Though you'll be reading this column in May, I'm writing it in early February, which is still winter in this part of the world. It might as well be May, though, since this has been one of the mildest winters on record for us (I'll likely have to eat these words later). Our plants, at least, seem to think it is early May. Plants that normally don't grow much for months in the glasshouse are overgrowing each other. The *Passiflora* that we grow trellised on our windowsills and in baskets seem to grow, not by the inch, but by the foot, grabbing passersby with their tendrils. As for the violets, they couldn't be happier, except for the fact that we expect them to behave this way in a couple of months, not now.

As is always the case, we are far too busy to reply to mail (or e-mail), though we do read all of it. Should you want a personal reply, we are more than willing to answer phone calls made during our normal business hours (12-5 pm EST), since we can work and talk at the same time. For those with access to the internet, we can be reached at [robsviolet@aol.com](mailto:robsviolet@aol.com) or via our web-site at [www.robsviolet.com](http://www.robsviolet.com). The web-site also contains a wealth of cultural information.

**QUESTION:** *Is it possible to have too light a soil mix?*

**ANSWER:** No, so long as you water more frequently or heavily with a lighter mix. By "light" we mean using less of those ingredients that retain water relatively well, like sphagnum peat and topsoil, and more of those materials that retain relatively less water, such as perlite. If you tend to water sparingly or infrequently (or forget altogether), then a "heavier" mix would likely be preferred. This would also be the case if you used clay pots or grew in a very warm and dry environment. Plants lose water very quickly in these conditions, and a heavier mix would hold more of it.

Just the opposite would be true if you water very heavily or frequently. A light mix is especially needed if you plan to use any type of "constant watering" method, such as wicking, or capillary matting. If you use the ceramic "African violet pots" that have become so popular, a very light mix is

needed. We recommend using a mix containing at least 50% perlite for any plants on a constant-watering system.

Can a mix be too light? Not if you plan on keeping your plants very wet. Olive (before she became Mrs. Robinson) actually grew showplants in a 50% perlite and 50% vermiculite mix and wick-watered them. This was the only medium in which she could bring the plants into the United States from Taiwan for the show she was attending - most got blue ribbons and a few won Best in Class.

**QUESTION:** *I have a plant that needs dividing, but seems so overgrown that I don't know where to begin.*

**ANSWER:** This was from a member at a local club meeting who had a "supermarket" violet that was so overgrown and crowded with crowns that dividing it by simply pulling crowns apart would have been impossible. Normally, if there appear to be just two or three large, easily identified crowns, you can massage them apart with your fingers, then pot each crown into its own pot. That wasn't possible in this case.

The individual crowns still need to be identified and removed, but doing so here means cutting them out with a sharp knife or razor (we like the Exacto modeling knives). Be careful to remove whole crowns, with at least two leaves and a growing center. Fill a small (2" or 2 1/2" pot) with moist (wet, not soggy) soil and make a small "divot" in the center of the soil surface. Place the crown in the divot and gently, but firmly, press the moist soil around its base. Be sure the crown is "snug" and doesn't wobble around in the pot - it will root better if this is so. Place the potted crown in a clear, plastic bag or container, and seal it. You shouldn't have to water it until it's removed from the bag. Place it in a bright, but not sunny, location. In about four weeks, the crown should have rooted and can be removed from the bag - you now have a plant. What's important now is that you don't allow this to happen again! Regularly remove any "suckers" (small pairs of leaves seen growing in the leaf axils) as they appear. If you don't, those little suckers will soon become large crowns



of their own and you'll have to divide it again. Besides, your violet will look more attractive and bloom better if suckers are regularly removed.

**QUESTION:** *I'm growing for show, for the first time. If I keep my standard-size violet disbudded, don't pot it into a larger container, will it produce the bigger leaves that I see on some large showplants?*

**ANSWER:** When a standard-size violet is continuously disbudded, it will produce larger leaves (mini and semiminia-  
ture varieties will stay small even when disbudded). Not being allowed to bloom, all of the plant's energy goes into producing foliage. This is how experienced exhibitors grow some showplants so large. Even though these plants may not have more leaves than they would when grown as a "house plant", the individual leaves can double or triple in size. Grown as a houseplant, most standard varieties rarely require a pot more than 4" in diameter. Grown as a large showplant, however, shallow pots 6" to 8" in diameter are often used, even larger for the humongous specimens!

A larger pot is aesthetically more pleasing for these big showplants (judges can deduct points for underpotting) but, without using larger pots, are necessary to produce such large leaves to begin with. As the plant grows larger, it requires a more developed root system to support it. This means providing more soil and a larger pot. A plant will only grow as much foliage as its root system can support. When disbudded, it may want to produce larger leaves, but will only produce leaves as large as its root system will support. Therefore, both disbudding and potting into a larger container will be necessary to grow truly large plants.

**QUESTION:** *I grow all of my violets in windows. My standards do well, but I can't seem to get my miniatures to bloom. Any explanation?*

**ANSWER:** Most of today's miniature varieties bloom just as well, or better, than do the standards. Miniatures do seem to prefer a bit more light than do standards, though most will bloom under the same conditions. For example, our miniatures are grown 10-12" below two florescent bulbs (used thirteen hours a day), while the standards are 18" below the bulbs. When growing in windows, this means that plants should be arranged in a way so that miniatures receive more light than standards.

I believe the reason this is a common complaint among those growing both minis and standard varieties in windows is because miniatures often receive less light, rather than more. Space is always limited in a window, especially for

those of us who always grow more plants than we have room for. Minis, because they are smaller, usually end up being placed between or beneath the larger plants around them. Also, plants are usually arranged so that they can be viewed from the interior of the room, not viewed from outside through the window. This means that small plants are placed in "front" closer to the room (and farther from the window) with the larger, taller, plants in the "rear". This is an attractive arrangement, but one that means the small plants in front are being shaded by the larger plants nearer the window. Is it any wonder that minis don't bloom as well as their larger neighbors? They're always placed in the worst possible light! Remember, just because they're small doesn't mean they should be hidden or neglected - give them the same light and care as your bigger varieties and they'll perform just as well.

**QUESTION:** *I suspect that it's time to repot my violet, since it has an ugly trunk and it's been a long time since I last did this. I'm afraid to though, since it's still blooming and I don't want to lose the flowers. Is there a best time to repot?*

**ANSWER:** The best time to do anything is when it needs to be done. This means repotting your violet into fresh soil on a regular basis, when a "neck" begins to appear and is easy to remedy. Usually, this means about twice a year. If done this often, the neck will not be very long or visible and will be easy to bury. This is done by removing some old soil (and roots) from the bottom of the rootball, lowering the plant in the pot, and then adding fresh soil around the top to cover the neck. If this is done regularly, then not much of the root system needs to be removed, so that the plant won't suffer from the shock of repotting - it will barely even know what you've done to it. It should continue to bloom as it had before. Don't feel squeamish about removing a few of the old, outer, leaves. These likely have already produced flowers and won't do so again. Concentrate on maintaining the new, healthy, growth. It is this growth that will be producing your flowers now and in the future. Regularly freshening the soil encourages new root growth, which then can support new foliage growth and blooms.

Should you let the neck grow too long, then more of the root system will need to be removed and it will more likely suffer from the stress of repotting - and may not bloom as well for a while. Things done regularly, in small doses, are better than drastic measures done late.

**Name of columnist replying is in bold print**



# In Search of New Violets



**Dr. Jeff Smith**  
The Indiana Academy  
Ball State University  
Muncie, IN 47306  
[JSmith4@bsu.edu](mailto:JSmith4@bsu.edu)

If your attempts to pollinate plants as described in the last column resulted in plump seedpods, you may be wondering what to do next. Here are some tips on caring for your pregnant plants:

1. Seedpods reach their full growth in about one month. The size of the seedpod depends on the number of seeds they contain and the genetic inheritance of the seed plant.
2. Care for your plant as you would any other. However, avoid over-watering and keep the plant free from mold.
3. Let the seedpod dry on the plant as long as possible. Seedpods that dry in less than four months are unlikely to contain fertile seed.
4. When the seedpod appears dry, remove it from the plant and place it in a warm dry area for several days.
5. After drying, the seeds can be planted immediately or stored. If you will not sow for a time, store the seed in the seedpod. Place the seedpod into a small vial or container that contains a small amount of silica gel desiccant. Make sure that the container is clearly labeled. The seed can be stored for several years in a refrigerator.

**Q:** *Would it be possible to use 'Celery' in a cross to create a trailer with this type of foliage?*

**A:** 'Celery' is a very unusual African violet in that it has longifolia foliage and bustled foliage. The two foliage traits combined together in one plant makes for a very twisted and unusual growth form. I don't see why you couldn't cross 'Celery' with a trailer. Both longifolia and bustled foliage are dominant genetic traits. Expect about 50% of the seedlings to show either trait, or about 25% to show both. Trailing is often inherited as a recessive when crossed with rosette style growth. You may not get any trailers in the first generation, but crossing the best F1 plants together that have the desired foliage should produce some trailers in the F2 generation. 'Celery' has blue flowers that are wasp shape. This flower color

and shape are both dominant genetic traits, so expect high numbers of blue wasp flowers in the offspring.

My caution for you is that given the unusual growth form of 'Celery', you might not produce any offspring that are worth keeping. However, the offspring should be VERY unusual looking, so why not try the cross and see what you get.

**Q:** *Are there any genetic differences between the African violets sold in retail stores and those sold through vendors in the African Violet Magazine?*

**A:** There are some genetic differences between these two types of African violets, but these differences are usually in genetic traits that shape the plant for the market for which they have been developed. For example, plants that have been hybridized for the retail market are usually selected for specific growing traits that make them profitable to sell. The plant should be easy to propagate from leaves, grow rapidly, have rubbery petioles that don't snap when the plants are sleeved for market, and crowds of single flowers in clear bright colors. Variegated foliage is not usually used because of its slower growth and susceptibility to damage. Double flowers are heavy and don't stand above the foliage well and take longer to mature, slowing marketing time. Because of the artificial lighting in most stores, blue and pink flowers look attractive, but the corals and red shades often look dingy and dirty, making them less attractive for buyers.

Plants sold through many vendors usually go to a different type of market. The African violet hobbyist is frequently interested in unusual flowers, different colors, variegated foliage and other types of unique traits. The hobbyist is often interested in growing plants with perfect show foliage and will tolerate traits such as inflexible foliage that would be undesirable from the retail market standpoint. This is not to say that retail plants can't make good show plants or that hobbyist plants wouldn't sell well on the retail market, but the qualities

that make a plant good for each environment is different. In response to this, hybridizers have developed different types of plants.

**Q:** *I have recently heard some individuals suggest using wedges of leaves instead of whole leaves to propagate plants. They claim that they get more sports when they use the wedges. Is there any truth to the claim?*

**A:** I haven't seen a good scientific study on the differences between using wedges instead of whole leaves, but I could see where they might be some truth to the claim. When a whole leaf is used, the new plants start from only the epidermis layer of the petiole. When a wedge is used, some of the babies may start from the mesophyll or middle tissue of the leaf. These cells are more metabolically active and may have had more chances to mutate or sport. If you are trying to create more mutations, you might try using leaf wedges and see what happens.

**Q:** *Why do star-shaped flowers have more stamens than violet-shaped flowers?*

**A:** The form of the gene, known as an allele, that causes violet-shaped flowers also represses the number of stamens. In many flowers, the number of petals is equal to the number of stamens. The allele for violet-shaped flowers restricts the size

of the lower three petals and allows only the two stamens associated with the larger upper petals to develop. However, if you look closely, you might find some small stumps at the base of the other petals. These represent the repressed stamens.

The star-shaped allele allows all five petals to develop to the same size. The stamens are no longer repressed and all five will usually develop. The end result is that star-shaped flowers will have more stamens and pollen than violet-shaped flowers.

**Q:** *When I changed fertilizers, I noticed that the next layer of leaves changed shape. Did the fertilizer cause a mutation?*

**A:** No, the best explanation for the change in leaf shape you observed is that the change in fertilizer caused a cultural break that changed the expression of a trait. Leaves grow as a combination of their genetics and their nutrition. In genetics, we often say that the physical appearance of an individual is a combination of the genes and their environment. If the fertilizer is changed, the genes are still the same, but the lack of nutrients might cause the leaves to develop differently. Once the leaves have developed in this new way, they can't be changed. This is why show plants need a consistent environment so that small changes don't change the expression of the physical traits, causing show faults.

## Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene J. Buck • 17235 N. 106th Avenue • Sun City, AZ 85373-1958

### Donations received from October 1, 2001 - November 30, 2001:

Windsor AVS, Windsor, CT	\$50.00
<i>In memory of Jessie Crisgfalli</i>	
Nancy & John Hayes, Bloomfield, CT	25.00
<i>In memory of Jessie Crisgfalli</i>	
<i>In memory of Alice Pelkey</i>	
Richmond AVS, Richmond, VA	25.00
<i>In memory of Mrs. Frances Madison, a long time member of our club</i>	
Nite Bloomers, Jacksonville, FL	25.00
NASA Area AVS, Houston, TX	25.00
<i>In memory of J.C. Munk</i>	
Mary Walker Beall, Austin, TX	25.00
<i>In memory of J.C. Munk for all that he contributed to our African Violet world</i>	
Hudson Highlands AVS, Fishkill, NY	75.00
<i>Our club must disband due to lack of members</i>	
Corpus Christi AVS, Corpus Christi, TX	20.00
<i>In memory of J.C. Munk</i>	
Corpus Christi AVS, Corpus Christi, TX	20.00
Leonard & Elaine Re, Fountain Valley, CA	15.00
<i>In memory of our friend Ralph Breiden</i>	
Bellflower AVS, Bellflower, CA	25.00
<i>In memory of Orpha Harrington</i>	
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<i>In memory of J.C. Munk</i>	
Sundowners AVS, Madison, WI	20.00
Wisconsin Council of AV Clubs, Milwaukee, WI	25.00
San Mateo County AVS, Redwood City, CA	25.00
Estate of Thelma Mae Springer, Bakersfield, CA	1000.00
Loveland Sweetheart Violettees Society, Loveland, CO	15.00
<i>In memory of Roland Bury father of Barbara McDaniel and Caroline Bury</i>	
Audrey E. Hanthorn, Vista, CA	25.00
<i>In memory of Mrs. Jean Strong</i>	
San Coast AVS, Redondo Beach, CA	25.00
<i>In memory of Ralph Breiden</i>	
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<i>In lieu of a speaker's fee to Carol Burrell for her "AV species program"</i>	
Tristate AV Council, Bordentown, NJ	10.00
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Maurice & Jackie Jones, Durant, IA	\$50.00
First AVS of Denton, Denton, TX	10.00
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<i>In memory of Agnes Grad, a very special member of our Society</i>	
AVS of Beaumont, Beaumont, TX	25.00
<i>In memory of Mildred Mitchell, a member of long standing and a past President</i>	
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Denise Sarrazin, Rawdon, Canada	4.00
Christine W. Davis, Harrison, ME	5.00
Sue Ann Blackmon, Conyers, GA	25.00

# An Ounce of Prevention...

by Melissa Gibson • College Station, TX

Spring is almost over, and if you are like me, you have recently received new African violets through trades and orders. I am always thrilled to see a package on the stoop and quite anxious to stock my shelves with my new plants. In spite of my enthusiasm, I have learned the hard way to cautiously introduce new plants to my collection. Maybe others can learn from my mistakes.

Last year I had a great time meeting fellow AV enthusiasts on the Internet and arranging leaf and plant trades. I also increased my collection through several commercial orders. AV folks are truly generous and I received wonderful starter plants and plenty of "extras". I also received (and likely passed along) some unwanted "gifts". Soon after receiving, repotting, and sharing leaves, I suspected that several plants were infested with cyclamen mites. Here are some suggestions I wish I had followed after I received my new plants. I could have saved a lot of time and effort if I had only proactively worked to control the pests before they had become a problem.

## Before you trade or order:

- (1) Know how to identify pest problems. There are several good books out there that will help. One is Melvin Robey's *African Violets: Gifts of Nature*. It provides a good description of problems that you may encounter. I had assumed I would deal with pest problems as they came along. Unfortunately, it took some time to familiarize myself with pest diagnosis and treatment. During that time, the pest population only grew and spread.
- (2) Know how you will treat a problem before it happens and begin a preventative treatment schedule with your existing plants. Again, I spent a good amount of time trying different treatments with varying degrees of success. Decide if you want to focus on organic or chemical treatments. Investigate the advantages of both and be prepared to treat infested plants at the first sign of pests. I tried organic pesticides and the hot water bath mite treatment only to decide they were not as effective or as practical as I had hoped. By the time I had decided upon and received a

chemical treatment through mail order (Kelthane), the problem had only gotten worse.

## After you receive a new plant or leaf:

- (1) Treat every plant or leaf with a miticide and/or pesticide.
- (2) Separate new plants from the rest of your collection for approximately three months. If you can't place the new plants in another room, reserve a shelf only for new plants on your light stand. Try not to handle your new plants often. You'll risk spreading pests. If you're able, set each new plant on its own water reservoir. Pests can spread among plants watered on a common tray.
- (3) Avoid repotting new plants if possible until you are sure they are pest free. I inadvertently spread cyclamen mites among my plants by repotting infested and non-infested plants at the same time. I also exacerbated the problem by planting leaves from untreated plants. Not only did some of my older plants begin to show signs of the pests, but several young plantlets were also infested.
- (4) Repot plants in sterilized soil. A quick ten minutes in the microwave will kill off unwanted pests that may be in the soil. Why risk introducing insects and fungi to your collection from soil when prevention is so quick and easy?
- (5) Don't be afraid to throw away infested plants. As one AV friend pointed out, "There are more violets out there. You can get another!" Don't risk your collection for a single AV that can be purchased again later. While it is up to you, I have concluded that the time spent nursing a sick AV can be better spent enjoying a beautiful blooming one. I'm no longer afraid to toss my troubled plants and sit back and enjoy the healthy ones.

After several treatments and a lot of work, my pest problem is under control. In the process, I have learned a good deal about keeping my collection healthy. To be honest, I've had fun "beating the bugs" as well. From now on though, I will certainly pay more attention to the advice of other experienced growers. It's true, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

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## Spring/Summer Tips

- Along with spring is the temptation to bring in cut flowers from outside. Be forewarned that you may also bring in unwanted pests such as thrips. You want to be sure to keep these cut flowers away from your AV collection or stop bringing them in entirely. Also, after working in the outdoor garden, wash your hands and maybe change clothes before working with your violets. Again, you may bring in pests on yourself or your clothing.
- Spring may also mean repotting. While this can be a horrendous task, try to think of it as a time to take a good look at your African violets and admire them. Is one looking unhappy? Did one grow particularly well since you last

repotted? Make a note of these things. Try to repot only part of your collection at a time so it doesn't feel like work. Some ideas to reduce the resulting mess: lay out newspapers to repot on. When you are through, fold them up, soil medium and all, and dump on your compost pile. Remember, you can't reuse your soil mix, but it can break down nicely outdoors - unless you've put poisons in the form of pesticides or systemics in it. Please refer to manufacturer's instructions for proper disposal in such situations.

*From the Newsletter of the Fantasy Violeteers AVC, CA*

# “And the winners are ...”



**Mary J. Corondan**  
7205 Dillon Court  
Plano, TX 75024

**MID-AMERICA AVC, MO – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Nebraska II, Optimara Degas II, Optimara Trinidad; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Dean's Rosalie, Rob's Cloudy Skies, Rob's Jitterbug; Best Miniature: Dean's Rosalie; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Pat Richards**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Powder Keg, Kathe Denise, Floozie; Best in Show/Best Standard: Kathe Denise, **Sue Knobbe**. Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'California Sunset', **Catherine Swink**. Best Trailer: Falling Snow, **Sue Hill**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Raymond Russell**.

**MID ATLANTIC AVS, NC – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Decelles' Fascination, Mindi Morn, Annabelle; Best in Show/Best Standard: Decelles' Fascination, **Joanne Baker-Pruner**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Marshlands, Merci Beaucoup, Satin Wine; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Calypso Beat, Rob's Boogie Woogie, Rob's Antique Rose, **Rob's Mini-o-Lets**. 2nd Best

AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Magic Blue, Wee Be, Mac's Virtually Velvet, **George McDonald**. Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Felicia Wdowiak**. Best Miniature: Frosted Denim; Best Trailer: Pacific Pearl; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Linda Abplanalp**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*, **Elizabeth Whitesides**. Best Gesneriad: *Chirita dielsii*, **Gary Gordon**. Best Design, **Sharon Long**. Design Sweepstakes, **Sue Hoffmann**.

**VENTURA COUNTY AVS, CA – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rhapsodie Patricia, Silverglade Jewels, Rapid Transit; Best Standard: Lyon's Shocking, **Adrienne Stringer**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Bee Boopsie, Orchard's Bumble Magnet, Petite Jewel; Best in Show/Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Boogie Woogie; Best Trailer: Tiny Wood Trail; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Ann Wang**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*, **Virginia Ellis**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Demeter', **Robert Seaton**.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE: SENIOR JUDGES

Senior Judges may apply for a renewal examination between May 1 and September 1, 2002. Send request to **Meredith Hall, 922 East 14th Street, Houston, TX 77009**. Include check for **\$5.00**, (payable to AVSA) and proof of three blue ribbons as per AVSA Handbook, page 83 or S & J Column in Jan/Feb 2001 AVM, page 38. Allow three weeks for delivery. The completed examination must be returned before October 1, 2002 for grading. **Examination may be received on Disk if requested.**

Those Advanced Judges who meet the requirements and wish to apply for their first Senior Judge examination, send check for **\$5.00** (payable to AVSA) to Mrs. Hall. Also send the following items of documentation of eligibility per AVSA Handbook.

1. List of all judging schools attended, grades, etc.
2. Signed schedules of five AVSA shows judged, (copy of signed title page with all show information is sufficient)
3. Verification of three blue ribbons earned per AVSA Handbook and S & J Column (Jan/Feb 2001)

Allow three weeks for delivery. Schedules and cards will be returned if a SASE is included with proper amount of postage. Applications postmarked after September 1, 2002 will be returned and application may be made next year. Completed exams postmarked after October 1, 2002 will not be graded. Allow three weeks or more (after Oct. 1, 2002) for grading and return of examination. **No exams will be returned until after Oct. 1, 2002.** If e-mail address is included you will be notified of receipt of exam, or include a self addressed postcard and it will be returned upon arrival of exam.

# Temperature Differences Between Shelves on a Light Stand

by Jeff Smith

Indiana Academy for Science, Mathematics and Humanities

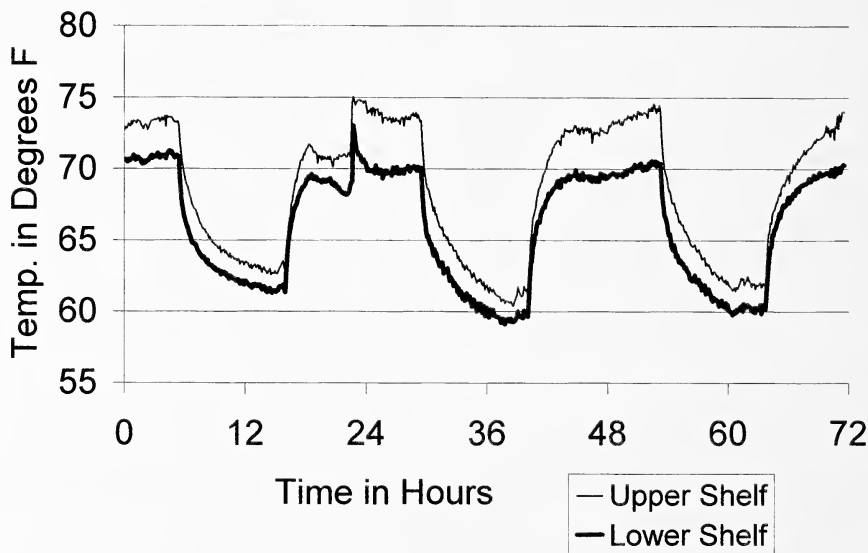
Ball State University • Muncie, IN 47306

Many growers of African violets have noted that there are differences in the environmental conditions between the shelves of their light stands. Plants that thrive on one shelf may sulk when placed on another. Common wisdom is that the upper shelves will have the higher temperatures because hot air rises. Plants on the lower shelves will have slightly cooler growing conditions as cold air sinks. Since some traits, like leaf variegation are temperature dependent, some growers have an annual migration of plants from one shelf to another in an attempt to maintain a consistent environment. However, just

of this study, the vents were mostly closed and a fan to circulate the air was not in use. Therefore, warm air from the furnace was only allowed to slowly "leak" into the growing area. The lights on the plant stands are standard four foot cool white fluorescent (40w) with two bulbs on each shelf. The plant stand used in the study was made of wood and contained four shelves. The height difference between the top and bottom shelves was approximately 5 feet (1.5 meters).

Temperature readings were taken using temperature probes connected to a laptop computer using an interfacing

## Temperature and Shelf Height



how different is the temperature from one shelf to another? Is there really enough of a difference to justify the placement of plants in certain locations? What factors influence the temperature in a plant room? The purpose of this article is to report the results of a short study that examined the temperature differences between two shelves on a plant stand.

The study was conducted on plants grown in a basement room. Vents in the heat ducts that run just under the ceiling provide heat and a small amount of air circulation. At the time

system called LabPro with Vernier Logger Pro 2.1.1 software. Temperature readings were taken at one-minute intervals for 72 hours for both the top and bottom shelves. The probes were placed horizontally on the top of the foliage of plants in the middle of the shelf and were approximately 5 inches (12 cm) under the lights. This system allowed for a continuous record of temperatures for the duration of the study period. The lights were on an automatic timer with a 12-hour day/night cycle. The experiment was started at approximately 4:00 p.m.

The results of the study are shown in the graph. The thin line is the data from the top shelf while the thick line is the data from the bottom shelf. The graph demonstrates that over the course of the 72 hours of the study, the top shelf had a higher temperature than the bottom shelf. The difference in temperatures ranged from approximately 2-5 degrees F. Therefore, the assumption that the top shelves of a plant stand have warmer temperatures is supported by the data.

Several additional interesting results can be seen in the data. For example, a spike in temperature was recorded for both shelves on the 2nd day just before the 24-hour reading. This spike was caused by the addition of water to the plants. It is my custom to use warm water to avoid shocking the plants. No water was placed on the temperature probes themselves. Therefore, the increase in temperature observed on both shelves appears to be caused by the release of heat from the water to the surrounding air. The increase in temperature persisted for several hours due to the heat retaining capacity of water. If cool or cold water had been used instead, it might be expected that the air surrounding the plants would have shown a substantial drop in temperature. The warm water changed the temperature of the plants for several hours. Therefore, it does seem important to check the temperature of water in order to avoid temperature shock and possible damage to the plants.

Another surprise in the data was the relative contributions of the furnace versus the lights in the rise and fall of temperature around the plants. Warm air from the furnace was not actively circulated in the room. When the house thermostat was raised each morning, the temperature of the shelves did not raise appreciably. Once the timer turned the lights on for the day, which was 2-3 hours later, the temperature around the

plants rose sharply, eventually reaching a plateau. At night, the thermostat was set lower and the timer turned the lights off. The loss of both sources of heat allowed the temperature to drop sharply, then gradually decline over the night to the setting of the thermostat. The lowest temperature recorded was around 60 degrees F, an acceptable nighttime temperature for most African violets. On the last day of the experiment (62-74 hours on the graph), the house was unoccupied and the thermostat had been set for a lower daytime temperature. The climb in temperature was much slower and had not really reached a plateau by the conclusion of the experiment. These results suggest that the furnace set a baseline temperature for the room, but the heat from the lights strongly affected the temperature around the plants.

While the length of the experiment was relatively short, the results do suggest several things. First, the idea that upper shelves on a plant stand are warmer than lower shelves was supported by the data. The difference in temperature can be several degrees and follows the same pattern from day to night. Second, the temperature of the water used on plants can substantially change the surrounding air temperature for several hours. Care should be used in adjusting the temperature of the water to avoid shock and damage. Third, the lights themselves contribute a significant amount of heat to the plants and could cause localized "hot spots" on the plant stand. Circulating the air or controlling the baseline temperature of the room may help control this concern. In summary, the experiment showed that differences in temperature do exist between the shelves of a plant stand. Growers can use this information to provide the best "micro-climate" for the specific needs of their particular plants, such as the cooler temperatures required for several of the *Saintpaulia* species.

## AVSA Building Maintenance Fund

Mary Walbrick • 5235 Kingston Drive • Wichita Falls, TX 76310-3029  
E-mail: MWalbrick@aol.com • Fax: 775-243-0836 • Telephone: (940) 692-6586

### Donations received November - December 2001

First AVS of Dallas, Red Oak, TX . . . . .	\$40.00
<i>In memory of Martin L. Adams, husband of Rae Adams</i>	
First AVS of Dallas, Red Oak, TX . . . . .	40.00
<i>In memory of Robert A. White, father of Janice Davidson</i>	
Missouri Valley AV Council, Carl Junction, MO . . . . .	25.00
Ohio State African Violet Society, Columbus, OH . . . . .	100.00
Pomona Valley AVS, Pomona, CA. . . . .	100.00
Sundowners AVC, Middleton, WI . . . . .	20.00
Mark C. Bander, Dewitt, MI . . . . .	20.00
Lydia Boecker, Brenham, TX . . . . .	5.00
Martha Hart, Rochester, NY . . . . .	5.00
Maurice & Jackie Jones, Durant, IA. . . . .	50.00
Lucinda J. Muni, Wyckoff, NJ. . . . .	5.00
Nellie Reese, Colonial Heights, VA . . . . .	10.00
John D. Sullivan, Danville, VA . . . . .	5.00
Joyce C. Williams, Sioux City, IA . . . . .	5.00

**TOTAL . . . . . \$430.00**

### Report 1 - January 2002

Lake Shore African Violet Society, Evanston, IL . . . . .	\$25.00
Montgomery African Violet Society, Montgomery, AL . . . . .	25.00
North TX African Violet Judges' Council, Dallas, TX . . . . .	10.00
<i>In memory of Robert A. White, father of Janice Davidson</i>	
Sweet Water AVS, Richmond Hill, NY . . . . .	10.00
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Foster, Dallas, TX . . . . .	20.00
<i>In memory of Martin Adams, husband of Rae Adams</i>	
James S. Graf, Bloomington, MN . . . . .	5.00
Debbie L. Hansen, Saint Peters, MO . . . . .	10.00
Elizabeth D. Lebert, Clinton, CT . . . . .	5.67
Mr. and Mrs. Byron Turner, Dallas, TX . . . . .	25.00
<i>In memory of Robert A. White, father of Janice Davidson</i>	
John B. Warren, Newburgh, NY . . . . .	10.00

**TOTAL . . . . . \$145.67**





# AVSA Affiliates

Bev Promersberger - *Affiliate Committee*

17992 Otis Way • Pensacola, FL 32506 • [promers22@hotmail.com](mailto:promers22@hotmail.com)

## BURN OUT?

Have you watched your club's former presidents disappear when their terms of office were completed?

Have you noticed the same person or persons doing all the work?

Have you seen the same people volunteering every time someone is needed to do a job?

This is one of the most common problems in affiliates. One person (or a few) ends up doing all the work. Another way to put it is that not enough people are sharing or doing **their part** of the work. Does either of these scenarios describe your club members?

### The cause

In some cases, one or more persons do all the work because they really want to and sometimes they do it because they know it's the only way the job or jobs will get done. Most of the time, it's the latter, that they do it to get the job done. Neither is the best answer for any club.

I have seen clubs in which one or a few people want to do the same jobs all the time. They feel comfortable doing something they are familiar with. Some club members believe they are fortunate to have a person who **wants** to be the perennial show chairman, the perennial president or some other 'highly sought after' job. Are those members really fortunate? You may think it is great! Better him or her than me.

### The effect

The effect can be burn out, clubs disbanding, or inferior quality of work.

One grower and affiliate club member very appropriately put it this way, "Wearing all the hats was really getting me down." *Webster's New World Dictionary* defines the term "burn oneself out" as "to exhaust oneself by too much work or dissipation." In other words, one person does too much and becomes burned out, tired or exhausted, and quits.

What happens when a person is no longer able or willing to continue? Who is going to replace him/her? Sometimes, no one.

I have seen vacancies cause clubs to disband. Does anyone really want to work so hard to keep a club going to have it fold when he/she leaves or no longer feels he/she can fulfill the responsibilities?

There is a third effect that is not often mentioned. Sometimes one person takes responsibility for so many jobs that he/she does not have the time to do any or all of the jobs well. We have all heard that the busiest people are usually the quickest to volunteer. I have, however, seen it exhaust the limits. The result can be chaos, disgruntled members and

a lack of unity within the club.

### The solution

The answer is really simple. Everyone participates. **Train! Volunteer! Delegate!**

It is important to take the time to teach and **train** rather than one person do all the work himself. It is important to train the members to work and to share the knowledge so that they can continue to grow, show and educate the public.

Club members must **volunteer!** The motto of this committee is: AVSA and affiliates growing together. The same should be true within each affiliate. The sharing of jobs and responsibilities promotes continued growth within an affiliate. Not only must the knowledge and growing experience be shared among all the members, so must the knowledge and work experience be shared.

Even new members need to assume responsibilities so that the affiliate can continue when other growers move on, need a break, or are unable to fill responsibilities. There is no greater way to be a part of a group than to get involved. There is no greater way to understand how and why things are done the way they are than to take a part. How often have we said, "They just don't understand **why**"? Join a committee so that you can see what the committee responsibilities are. Ask someone if you can help so that you can see what is involved.

And lastly, **delegate!** This pertains most importantly to the club president. Does the president ask at every meeting, "Do I have a volunteer?" Or, does he/she do everything himself/herself because it's easier than begging for a volunteer? The president can and should delegate someone else. Don't be one of those presidents who disappears when your term of office is completed. When the sharing stops, so does the club.

In just a few weeks, many of us will be at the AVSA convention in Washington DC. By now, each club with a contact e-mail address has received my official e-mail correspondence inviting any affiliate member at the convention to join us at the 'Affiliate Meeting', Wednesday, May 22 from 3:30-4:40 p.m., between the afternoon and evening tours. The topic this year will be programs. A panel of three experienced growers and club leaders will share their knowledge followed by questions, answers, and a time of sharing. I hope each affiliate will make an effort to have at least one representative present. If you are unable to attend and want to share any suggestions or ideas, please send them to me as soon as possible at either of the addresses above.



# Searching for Vigorous Violets

by Joshua McKinney • Goshen, KY

African violets prosper when cared for properly. Many varieties, though, fail to grow well no matter how much pampering they receive. You try repotting them in fresh soil or changing the pot diameter and there is little or no improvement. You try giving the problem hybrid decreased or increased illumination. Additionally, altering the rate of fertilizer utilization or its concentration has no effect on vigor. Raising the humidity or increasing air movement fails to enhance growth in a similar manner as all of the other adjustments.

After accommodating the plant, and failing to make it prosper, you might think your violet growing skills cannot be improved. Don't be so hard on yourself. The problem may be with the plant, not the grower. A discrete number of varieties have little vigor to start with, due to numerous defective genes. This deteriorated condition is mostly due to inbreeding, though once in a while x-rays and viruses mutating several genes at once are the cause.

Conversely, a vigorous African violet will thrive in any environment (within reason) and be significantly adaptable. There aren't very many saintpaulias that meet this standard. If you search for plants that grow robustly, then make note that these varieties may not win a bounty of awards, though these consistent achievers are usually raised by hybridizers in your region. Picking out plants that grow well for other people in your area will increase your chance of accomplishment. Also, select the plant that fits in the area you plan to place it. Plants with lower light requirements usually have lighter leaves. Plants that prefer brighter light will have darker leaves.

Features of a weak *Saintpaulia* variety: plant growth is slow, leaves wither faster than other varieties, and leaves do not overlap well (leaf rows obscure other rows). Aphid and mealybug spread easily on these. Additionally, other pests feed more regularly on them (they must taste good). Flower stalks

are not held well above the foliage (they are bent and usually on their sides) and are infrequent. Blooms age quickly and are mostly susceptible to powdery mildew.

The description of the diseased variety could also be evidence of culture shock or a virus. If you suspect culture shock (improper cultivation) and other people in your area have few problems growing the same plant, then give it some recovery time under normal growing conditions (consistent water with 1/4 the recommended dose of fertilizer per gallon, bright, indirect sun light or artificial light, fluffy, slightly acidic soilless medium, humidity above 40%, and good air movement). Furthermore, saintpaulias with genetic disease show these traits at an early age; please toss them and do not register them! If there is a specific trait that you want to preserve, cross it with a strong variety and keep the prime seedlings.

Now that we have discussed bad traits, let's examine a few characteristics of vigorous saintpaulias. They grow relatively quickly and leaves are youthful even when very mature. A way to test this is to propagate leaves with longer petioles - cut when plantlets can support themselves and replant. If a leaf produces a second time, there is high probability it is a vigorous variety. Leaves are symmetrically arranged in slightly overlapping rows. The hybrid is resistant to pests (when infected only a few outer leaves are lost, taking the infection with them). Flower stalks are held well above the foliage and they are straight and sturdy. Ascending frequently, blooms age gracefully and are resistant to fungal disease.

Plants with strong traits will consistently win awards at shows throughout the country, and they adapt quite well to diverse growing conditions. Don't give up on your search for vigorous varieties; there is no reason you should settle for second best on your growing stand. Prevent the hassle of violets that need frequent spraying. Grow resistant varieties and save some money and the environment too!

---

## Attention All Affiliates!

**Do you want to make your programs more interesting? More original?**

**Is it hard for your program chairman to keep coming up with new ideas?**

**Do your members want something new?**

Your programs are the most important attractions for members and visitors. If you are planning to attend the Washington, DC convention, we want to help you. All presidents, vice presidents, program chairmen, and interested

affiliate members are invited. We hope every affiliate will have at least one representative present at the Affiliate Meeting.

**Wednesday, May 22  
3:30-4:30 p.m.**

The program will feature three growers and club leaders who will share their secrets for success in building their affiliates. There will be a time for sharing and reaping ideas to take back to your affiliates. We **want your questions!** WE **need your answers!** Please join us.

# A Family Portrait



**Georgene Albrecht**  
101 Oak Heights Drive  
Oakdale, PA 15071

## *Sinningia pusilla*

How can any grower not find space for this tiny wonder? *Sinningia pusilla* (sin-NIN-jee-ah pew-SIL-lah) constantly produces darling, pale lavender blooms that are larger than any of its leaves. In fact, an inch wide plant can produce a flower three-quarters of an inch long. It is essential to grow these miniscule tuberous plants in a container that is covered. I use plastic wrap because it allows some air to transfer and is easily disposed of when I want to give it a new cover. Change the wrap often, as it tends to draw dust. If your plant does not bloom, place it closer to the ends of the fluorescent tubes. Water it with rain-water if you can.

Use a small container about three or four inches wide and place only an inch of very, light soil mix in the bottom. Make sure it is moist. Place the tiny tuber or plant in the center just about even with the top of the soil. Tamp down gently and water the edge with just a few drops of water. Remembering that the tubers are a storage unit for nutrition means that fertilizing is rarely needed. Instead of fertilizing, repot in fresh soil every six months. Temperatures between 60 and 75 degrees are fine. Never place an enclosed container in the sun. If you do over water, place a rolled paper towel on the edge of the soil. On the other hand, gradually add a few drops of warm water to the side of the soil ball if it has dried out too much. Never put water on foliage of any plant grown in a container. If condensation causes the foliage to be wet, it is a sign that the plant is over watered. Let it dry out a little, and then recover with plastic wrap.

If you are going to show your plant it must be grown

under three inches wide and have a bloom on all major growths. The glass container must be spotless and the plastic wrap cut to exact top measurements. A small piece of glass the size of the top is fine, but it must be placed

slightly ajar so that condensation does not block

the view for judging. If soil mix is visible, place sphagnum moss on it.

Perlite is so unattractive. The stems of spent flowers are difficult to remove. Do not try to pull them; they must be cut low enough to avoid stubble. They tend to develop many crowns as they age. Some can be removed and rooted. If you want a lot of plants, insert the tuber lower in the soil, and each growth will develop a tuber on top of the mother tuber. You can then remove them to their own home. Never remove all growth from the tuber; it may

go dormant and not recover.

*Sinningia pusilla* is very fertile and will provide you with many seedlings right in the container. It is nice to move them to a prop box so you always have some to share with visitors and friends. Seed is available from our advertisers and from the AGGS seed fund. Sow it on a seed-starter mix, and in a few weeks you will have more than you wanted.



### CHICAGO TOPICS

Members at my table during the convention of 2001 were talking about the newbie growers. They are so enthused to grow our beautiful plant family that they may not realize that the show plants on display may have taken a lifetime of experience to grow that well. We also need to make them aware of

the fact that our commercials may be hobby growers, too. Please, support them as much as you can. The larger commercial growers need your help and support just as much. They are trying to make their livelihood from plants, and that is not an easy task. If they can't make a living, we will lose them. If you place an order from them, list substitutes. A photo in AVM may cause a rush for certain plants that will not be ready for many months. Communicate your wants and needs to the commercial grower. Tell him/her that you expect a certain percentage of the plants ordered. Enclose a SASE for them to reply. If you have a time limit in mind, tell them. Be completely up front with them. This is very important to the newbie. They are so excited and enthusiastic; I know it is so hard to wait. It will be worth it. Sometimes, we must learn to be patient. Commercials should not cash checks until the order is sent or an agreement has been reached regarding the sale.

## THRIPS

They are still with us and everyone fights them. Reading many conversations online, I see that they are probably the number one son-of-a-gun. I once read a comment about soil mealy bugs eating thrips. I had a plant that had reverted so I decided to find out. Yes, the thrips were gone two weeks after I put some mealy on the flower stems. I tossed the plant in the rubbish, not my compost pile. Reading about other growers having success with a product called Conserve, I thought I would pass this on. Supposedly, this is not very toxic but quite effective. Remember insects are part of our world. How much are we willing to risk in order to eradicate them? As for the mealybugs, Marathon seems to be the product most mentioned. I got some but decided not to use it in my home during the winter months. Just when I think all the mealybs are gone,

they show up on something that had been clear for years. Ugh.

## WATER WHEELS

Toting water to my plant stands has gotten to be a chore, so I have found an easier way. Restoration Hardware sells this wonderful upright gardening cart. It has two large wheels and a nice canvas bag, which is meant to hold weeds. Well, I place a five-gallon bucket inside that canvas bag, fill it with water and fertilizer and wheel it to my plant stands. Sure beats any other method. To keep the canvas bag dry, a rubbish bag is inserted just like it would be if weeds were tossed in. The cart also has a place to carry microencapsulated spray, Safer's Insecticidal Soap spray, scissors, brushes, etc. to groom while watering.

I still love to top-water. Most of my plants are on mats that hold the water supply just because there is not time to water otherwise. Rotating many fertilizer formulas is so easy when the cart is pulled up to the sink. The cart must be tilted backwards a little so that it can be pushed, but the bucket is never filled completely so it doesn't spill out. It is a nice green color and, of course, water proof.

## DOMES

When showing gesneriads use a nice, clear plastic terrarium container. Episcias are just fantastic grown in the twelve-inch size that Cape Cod Violetry sells. See their ad in AVM. They also have the wonderful clear domes in different sizes to fit over the standard 22" by 11" trays. I grow my miniature African violets on two layers of acrylic blanket material in these trays. They love the humidity. I just water the blanket and they take up what they want. This saves a lot of time. Until next time, good growing.



## AVSA BOOSTER FUND

Shirley Berger

4343 Schumacher Rd - 196E • Sebring, FL 33872-2639

### CONTRIBUTIONS FROM DECEMBER 1, 2001 THRU JANUARY 31, 2002

Missouri Valley AV Council . . . . .	\$25.00	Mildred Ockey . . . . .	\$5.00	Margaret H. Adair . . . . .	\$5.00
Lucinda J. Muni. . . . .	5.00	Ohio State AVS . . . . .	100.00	Elizabeth D. Lebert . . . . .	5.66
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Elizabeth Burke. . . . .	5.00	<i>member of AVS of Beaumont, TX</i>		Gary S. Mikita. . . . .	4.25
AVS of Staten Island (NY) . . . . .	25.00	Tara AV Club (GA) . . . . .	15.00	James S. Graf . . . . .	5.00
<i>In lieu of speaker's fee for Janet</i>		<i>In memory of member Merle Bilder</i>		Lake Shore AVS (IL) . . . . .	25.00
<i>Rierner (apply to micro-film project)</i>		Michelina Beach . . . . .	20.00	<b>TOTAL . . . . \$414.91</b>	

# GROWING, SHOWING, AND JUDGING *SAINTPAULIA* SPECIES

Part II by Barbara Pershing

## Why grow *Saintpaulia* species

There are various reasons given as to why growers choose to grow or not to grow and show species plants. There are those of us who have the 'collection' instinct – we must have one of each in our collection. Some choose to grow species to help preserve our heritage. We are aware of the possibilities of their extinction in the wild, and we like the thought of having a bit of history on our plant shelves. Others grow the species because they are a challenge; each one is different. Or, they are seeking variety in their collection.

The other side is that people shy away from them because of their names. If I can't pronounce or spell the name I don't want anything to do with it! [W. Maurus, "These Beautiful *Saintpaulia* Species Names", Jan/Feb 1989, p. 41, gives a phonetic pronunciation of the species names]. Some avoid growing species plants because of their messy blossom dropping habits; they haven't had success in the past; or, they expected the species plants to behave as their hybrid cultivars. If you expect a nice, symmetrical, easy to grow plant, forget the species. But, if you want some variety in your growing and are looking for a challenge – go for the 'wild side'!

## Choosing species for show

Which species plants make good show plants? I wondered which had been best species in Affiliate shows in recent years. Of the 162 clubs reporting show results in the 2000 and 2001 *AVM* "And the Winner's Are" columns, approximately one-third did not list best species in their shows. Which species most often received the best species in these shows? *S. grandifolia* received 22 best species awards with *S. grandifolia* #237 (7, #299 (8) and 5 not differentiating between the two *grandifolia*; *S. ionantha* (11); *S. pendula* var *kizare*, *S. rupicola*, and *S. Velutina* Lite (9 each); *S. tongwensis* and *S. confusa* (7); *S. intermedia* and *S. velutina* (6); *S. House of Amani* and *S. diplotricha* Punter #6 (5); *S. Sigi Falls* (3); *S. pendula* and *S. diplotricha* Punter #7 (2) and *S. magungensis*, *S. obicularis*, *S. nitida*, and *S. difficilis* each received 1 best species award.) Twenty of the 32 species listed in the *AVSA Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges* received at least one best in class in an affiliate show in the last two years.

Which ones weren't included in the shows? *S. goetzeana*, *S. magungensis* var. *minima*, *S. magungensis* var. *occidentalis*, and *S. teitensis*; all are VERY shy bloomers. Regardless of how nice the foliage, if there aren't any blossoms, they stay home! Others not listed in a best in class were *S. grottei*, *S. shumensis*, *S. brevopilosa*, *S. White Ionantha*, *S. Robertson* and *S. diplotricha* Parker.

A blossom of *S. goetzeana* was on the cover of the March

1972 *AVM* with an article, "*S. goetzeana* Blooms for California Woman." Mrs. Hazeltine noticed seven buds on her *S. goetzeana*, two weeks before the AVSA convention in San Francisco. Apparently this is one of a very few of this species that have ever bloomed in a home environment and the chances of a blooming specimen at show time even less likely.

I must relate a bit of trial and error with my *S. magungensis* var. *occidentalis*. I had been growing it for a couple of years and had placed it in an 18" diameter x 3" deep pan, treating it as a trailing plant. It had gorgeous shiny foliage but never a single blossom. I e-mailed Dr. Jeff Smith about this plant, and he suggested that it needed to be grown in cooler temperatures. He suggested that I put it in the refrigerator for an hour or two a day to mimic the cooler nights of the mountains where it grew in the wild. Well ... an hour might have been OK, but not all night!! It turned to mush! I had a smaller plant of this species growing in a window, and when I moved all of the other plants away from the window in the winter (glass gets pretty cold in Iowa in winter), I left the plant close to the glass where it finally did present me with several nice blossoms proving that it really does need colder temperatures to bloom. The articles by Dr. Smith [March-April and May-June 1996 *AVM*] on growing species in 'cool' and 'warm' environments is a must - read for anyone growing species.

Two pictures of *S. grottei* in the March 1951 *AVM* show one plant grown as a nicely formed trailing hanging specimen and the second picture showing a specimen growing as a climbing plant allowed to vine around a small pole. *S. grottei* has been used in hybridizing programs and is the ancestor of many of our trailers, but it has some weird growth habits that don't lend it to making a good show plant. It definitely is a "wild plant!"

## Selecting species plants for show:

- Select species that are naturally floriferous although some of the species that have rather sparse blooming tendencies have been award winners. The species are listed as having few, some or many blossoms (floriferous) in a Quantity of Blossoms chart in the *Handbook*.
- Select plants that have uniform foliage color throughout and have a good pattern of growth for the particular species.
- Grow the species long enough to know the growth characteristics of the plant and the environmental conditions in which it grows best.
- Observe your species plants regularly. You might be surprised to find a specimen that has 'done it's own thing' right there on your plant shelf and is an excellent candidate for a show entry.

# GROWING, SHOWING, AND JUDGING *SAINTPAULIA* SPECIES

## Part III

From the number of questions on showing species that Bill Foster answers in the Shows and Judges Column in the *AVM* and questions posed to the online groups on growing and showing species, it appears that many growers are seeking help. The very first thing anyone who is growing species for show should do is read the information on African Violet Species in the *AVSA Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges*.

### Scale of Points – Judging Standards

First of all, it is important to know that the AVSA Scale of Points for judging species allocates 50 points for cultural perfection, 30 points for grooming, and 20 points for quantity of bloom (according to species). This new scale of points was effective January 1, 1996 when the 50 points for **cultural perfection** combined symmetry and condition. “Most of the species are not known for their symmetry.” (Shows and Judges Column, Jan/Feb 1997).

The *Handbook* states: “Judges must look at the species as native or wild plants.” The description of each species indicates the plant is: ‘usually’ single crowned; single-crown (occasionally suckers); multi-crowned; or, small, medium or large trailer. Size is designated as: miniature, semi-miniature, compact standard, small standard, or large. This is an indication of the usual growth pattern of the particular species. If a species plant that is ‘usually’ single-crowned has several suckers, the suckers may be left on the plant and points should not be deducted. Likewise, a trailing species is not required to have three crowns. This is the ‘native or wild’ side of many of the species. “Judges should judge them as presented without deducting points for an occasional deviation.”

### Cultural perfection

Half of the points in judging species plants are for cultural perfection. For species, cultural perfection is how well the plant is grown given its genetic potential. You can obtain cultural perfection with species plants using the same horticultural practices that you use for all African violets: frequent repotting, routine fertilizing, uniform watering, proper lighting. Careful culture throughout the entire growing process is important. It takes several years of careful cultural practices to grow many of the species into large award-winning best in class specimens. It also takes some experimenting to find the best conditions in your environment for each of the species.

### Things you can do to ensure cultural perfection:

- Consistent care: watering, fertilizer, re-potting, lighting. Not all of the species have the same needs for light and water. Without going into detail on what each species prefers, i.e., more or less of either, I would suggest that the grower experiment to determine the best environ-

ment for each species they grow and keep a record of results for future use. Also, see J. Smith's articles on growing ‘cool’ and ‘warm’ species. [Mar/Apr and May/June 1969]

- Species plants seem to have smaller root systems than the modern hybrids and like a very light, porous soil, especially if wick watered. (Question Box, Sept/Oct. 95)
- Pot size: The 1:3 ratio of rosette plants is not the criteria for most of the species. Pot size should be in proportion to the plant and with proportion that looks balanced. (This seems to be a concern of many growers. The 1:3 ratio has been so emphasized that it is difficult to diverge.) Like all African violets, the species plants need to be root bound to bloom. Because of the shallow root systems, shallow pan pots are a good choice.
- Repot as frequently as you do your standards. Single-crowned species will get necks as they get older and lose lower leaves. Treat them just as you would the neck on any African violet.
- The plant should be centered in the pot when repotted. However, some species have a side-ways growth habit, which makes it difficult to maintain the centered appearance.
- Trailing type species plants can be grown the same as trailing cultivars with the trailing branches encouraged to grow outward allowing new crowns and roots to form along the branching stems.
- Poor shape or form is considered under culture and may lead to loss of points, but symmetry or lack of it is up to the plant to decide. Each species has its own characteristic form. Wayward growth habits that lead to poor shape or form is the tendency of some species. It is often possible to improve the shape of a plant by removing wayward side shoots and errant leaves.
- Trailing forms do not have to have multiple crowns, and suckers on usually ‘single crowned’ plants are acceptable (back to that ‘native or wild’ habit of species).
- Keep your plants pest and disease free. I have found that my species plants seem to be more resistant to mildew and other pest and disease problems than my hybrids. I’ve never seen thrips on a blossom of a species plant, although I don’t take any chances and treat the species plants along with my entire collection if I suspect a problem.
- Remember that the species are never going to have the beautiful form and the many beautiful blossoms that our present-day cultivars have, but that doesn’t mean they are not quality plants. (Shows & Judges Column, Jan/Feb ‘97)
- The Handbook states that “we should exhibit them as they are, without artificially pruning them to meet certain criteria.”

**Grooming** is worth 30 points. Grooming species plants means keeping the spent blossoms, stems, and yellowed leaves removed. Grooming species plants follow the same guidelines as grooming all of your African violets - anything that will improve the appearance of the plant.

- Cleanliness and careful removal of blossom and leaf stubs, removal of all damaged, marred or yellowed foliage, and spent blossoms, is all part of consistent grooming. Most species blossoms are 'droppers' and rather 'messy.' A pair of long tweezers is useful to get the dropped blossoms from among the foliage.
- Inconsistent leaf size and out-of-place leaves detract from the overall appearance. Remove leaves that are obviously larger or smaller than the norm. Also, move, or remove a long leaf sticking out from a compact mound of foliage.
- Dust and dirt on the leaves should be carefully brushed or washed off. Species plants like a nice warm shower as all

African violets do. Just don't place the plant back in sunlight until the leaves are dry.

**Quantity of bloom** according to species is worth 20 points. The number of blossoms differs considerably with the species. A list of all of the species according to their 'tendency' toward blooming is included in the *Handbook*; however, many factors in the growing conditions may intervene so that for one person, a particular species blooms freely while for another, that same species may not ever bloom. I almost failed to enter *S. pendula* in a show because I didn't think it had enough blossoms (I knew it could do better), but I was encouraged to enter it anyway. To my surprise, I got best species and best trailer.

All species should be entered in the class designated for species in an AVSA show. However, trailing species plants in the class for species or from AVSA collections, may be considered for "Best Trailer" (S&J Column Sept/Oct '98).



## CROWN CUTTINGS - How and Why?

by Sue Gardner

### What is a crown cutting?

A crown cutting is a selection of stem cut from a plant which includes the growing point or crown.

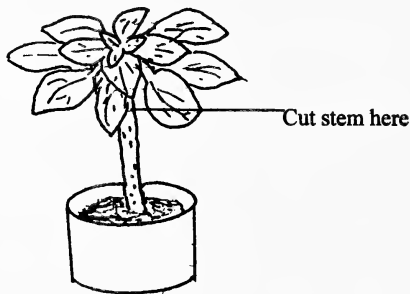


Crown cutting

### Why take a crown cutting?

You may take a crown cutting when your plant has root rot, soil mealy bug, or other root problems. If you wish to propagate a trailer, the easiest way is by means of a crown cutting.

If your plant develops the palm tree look or if you are rejuvenating a chimera, take a crown cutting.



### How did I take a crown cutting?

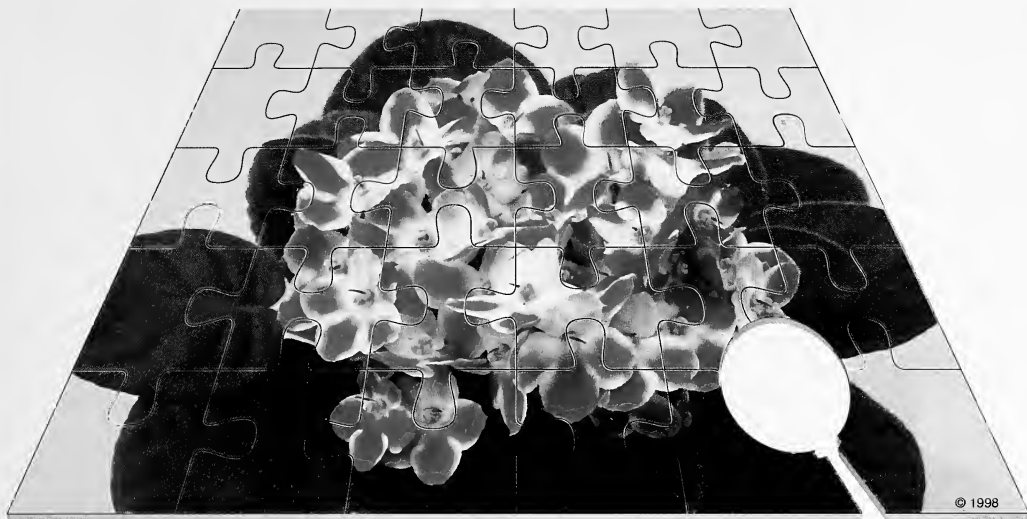
#### Steps

1. Remove outside leaves until 4 or 5 remain.
2. Cut the main stem leaving about 3cm.
3. Scrape the stem gently to remove leaf stubs and scar tissue.
4. Lightly brush some rooting powder on stem or coat with rooting gel. This is useful as it contains a fungicide to prevent rot.
5. Prepare a 5cm pot with wick and potting mix.
6. Make a hole with your finger in the potting mix and insert the stem. Add more potting mix to fill around the stem.
7. Water with a small amount of warm water.
8. Drain well and place in a plastic bag (or in plastic container and cover with plastic film).

When roots have formed, open the bag for a few days. Then, remove from bag and place on reservoir and grow in the usual way.



Cutting placed in plastic bag



## What's Missing From This Picture?

Chances are, few of today's garden centers know as much about growing African Violets as you do. No doubt, this explains why so many knowledgeable Violet growers have a hard time finding the products they need. For anyone who knows what it takes to grow beautiful, full-blooming African Violets, it can be like putting together a puzzle, only to find there's a piece missing. We know the feeling. That's why we started the Selective Gardener, a plant care supplier that specializes in products for African Violets.

### Everything You Need to Grow Beautiful, Full-Blooming African Violets

The Selective Gardener makes it easy to get the products you need. As a plant care supplier that specializes in African Violets, the Selective Gardener carries a full line of plant care products with brand names like Optimara.

- Fully-dissolving, urea-free fertilizers
- Self-watering devices such as the Watermaid and the new, spill-proof Optimara WaterShip
- Ultralight, pH-balanced potting media
- Pots, trays and plant covers
- Show accessories and more

### From Leaf Cuttings to Finished Violets

In addition to plant care products, the Selective Gardener offers African Violets in several pot sizes, including genuine Miniatures. You can also order leaf cuttings from all of the available Optimara and Rhapsodie varieties.

### A Complete African Violet Resource

The Selective Gardener is a complete African Violet resource. Send for the Selective Gardener catalog, and you will find offers for plant care products, Violets and leaf cuttings, even books and posters. Or go online, and you will find even more. At the Selective Gardener's internet site (<http://www.selectivegardener.com>), you will have access to a number of resources not available anywhere else.

- Growing tips from the world famous Holtkamp Greenhouses
- Complete interactive Violet identification guide
- Links to other useful sites such as Doctor Optimara, a symptom-based, interactive guide for diagnosing pests and pathogens
- Reviews of African Violet products

**(Tip:** If you do not have access to the internet, try your public library. Many libraries, now, provide computers for public use, as well as helpful assistance for anyone wanting to go online.)

### The Selective Gardener Catalog

To receive the Selective Gardener catalog, send \$1 (which will be credited to your first order) with your name and address to:

The Selective Gardener  
6011 Martingale Lane  
Brentwood, TN 37027

Or visit us online at  
<http://www.selectivegardener.com>.

**Selective  
Gardener**

# SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST!

BY ELMER GODENY, PH.D.

In 1831, Charles Darwin set sail on *The Beagle* for a round-the-world trip that would last five years. Twenty years later, Darwin would summarize his findings of his voyage and propose his theory of evolution: Natural Selection. Darwin has become one of the most prominent figures in evolutionary history. According to his natural selection theory, organisms evolve based on their ability to adapt to their environment, in other words, "Survival of the Fittest".

Although Darwin traveled around the world to develop his theory, I see his theory at work in my plant room. Many African violet growers pamper their plants. However, growers can pamper their plants too much, resulting in broken or marred foliage and distortion or lack of blossoms. Personally, I don't have the time to pamper my plants. My philosophy for growing African violets is "Survival of the Fittest". As many members in my local club can attest, my plants do not always get the best of care. OK, they are neglected most of the time. Although I wick-water, it is not unusual for my plants to dry out and not get watered for two or three months. It is not unusual to see plants on my shelf which are completely wilted in pots of rock-hard soil-less medium. With a little TLC, many of my plants do come back and make award-winning show plants because if they don't, they get tossed.

African violets are very hardy plants; they can tolerate much abuse in growing conditions. However, it does take some special considerations to re-establish a show plant after it has been neglected. The purpose of this article is to acquaint growers on my techniques for revitalizing abused show plants. Although I am sure no one reading this article has ever neglected their plants (snicker) and will probably never need this information, it may prove entertaining reading.

The first step in re-establishing a plant is to take a good look at the center of the plant. Is the crown still green and healthy (although it may be wilted)? If the crown is not green and healthy, the plant will not come back. The only place for that plant is the garbage can. If you insist on keeping this variety and don't want to purchase another plant, you may want to put down a leaf.

**Light:** If I know that I will not be able to work on my plants for a while and they are starting to dry out, I turn off the lights on that shelf. Light increases the plant's metabolism requiring increased water and fertilizer. Reducing the amount of light allows the plant to enter a semi-dormant stage. The decrease in metabolism results in reduced water and fertilizer consumption. Like all great discoveries, the effect of lighting on my plants was found accidentally. During one of my bouts of plant neglect, the bulbs in one of my lights burned out. I was not able to change the bulb or water

the plants for about two months. I found that those plants survived my neglect much better than my plants that were under full light. Plants are returned to full light once the watering and revitalization process begins.

**Water:** Although African violets require water to grow, water can also be the enemy of dried out plants. When re-establishing a plant, I water it sparingly. Place the plant in a saucer of water (without fertilizer). I generally add about 1/4 to 1/2 inch of water to the saucer and allow the plant to absorb it. When a plant dries out, the soil becomes hard and shrinks from the sides of the pot. If the plant is really dry, the soil will not absorb water. If, after thirty minutes, the plant has not begun to absorb the water, I add a little water (about 1 teaspoon) to the soil surface and allow it to run down the roots. This method wets the soil inside the root ball and makes the soil more absorbable.

I water my plants using this method twice a week (or when I think about it) until I am able to re-pot them. Within a day or two, the centers of the plant will become more turgid. Hopefully, as time progresses, the turgidity progresses down the rows of leaves. If watered too much or too often, the crown will rot and the plant will be lost. Watering is stopped at least two days before repotting.

**Repotting:** When the plant has recovered enough to withstand the shock of repotting, any limp leaves are removed. I keep the turgid leaves on the plant and try to obtain some symmetry to the foliage. After removing the plant from the pot, loosen the root ball and remove any hard clumps of dried roots. The plant is repotted into a similar-sized or smaller pot using my usual, pre-moistened, African violet potting mix. In the event that the crown of the plant looks fine but the roots are rotted away, remove the crown and start a new plant from it. The plant is allowed to sit for four hours to overnight before I put it back on fertilizer water on the light stand.

**Fertilizer:** Do not use fertilizer on dried out plants; it will burn the plant. I do not add fertilizer to my neglected plants until they are repotted. After repotting, full-strength fertilizer can be used.

Experience has shown that African violets are very hardy houseplants. They do not need to be pampered. Using the methods described above, I have been able to revitalize many of my neglected plants. It is astonishing how quickly African violets re-establish themselves when given the opportunity. I have been surprised many times when plants which I thought were gone forever, rebounded and became prize winning show plants. Generally, standard plants will begin to show signs of recovering within a month of repotting and miniature and semiminature plants will recover within a



couple of weeks.

African violets which are brought into my plant room must have good genes to remain. A little stress and neglect will show the grower which African violet varieties are stronger than others, and strong genes make great show

plants. In my plant room Darwin's "Survival of the Fittest" is more than a theory, it's a fact.

Reprinted from *Ribbons and Rosettes*, the Newsletter of the Louisiana Council of African Judges and Growers

## Making Your Own Potting Mix

Feeling brave this morning? Want to live dangerously? Want to mix your own potting soil? The following are recipes used by various clubs and people. Word of caution, should you try these recipes, don't repot your favorite violet using it until you see how it will work for you in your conditions. Pot a couple of plants and observe them for several weeks. If they do well, or better than your usual soil, then try it on more plants.

### Austin Violet Club Recipe

1 three-quart bag of Volkmann's African Violet Soil  
1 1/2 cups horticultural charcoal

Take a cup of the above soil mix and mix with 1/3 cup dolomite lime, 1 tablespoon bone meal, and 1/4 cup crushed eggshells (optional).

Add this mixture to the soil and charcoal mix. An easy way to make sure it is well mixed is to put it all in a large plastic bag and turn it over and over at least twenty times. Add one quart warm water to the mix and let stand for twenty-four hours to activate the ingredients. I have used this recipe several times with a slight modification. Of course, you have to realize that among my "cooking" friends I am known as the "Queen of Substitution". I add perlite and leave out the eggshells. When I fill my pots, I also put a layer of perlite in the bottom of the pot. I have used this soil for wicking and also bottom watering. It seems to work well.

The following recipe was found in a May/June 1996 article by Doris Ann Jolley in the African Violet Magazine.

4 cups African Violet soil  
2 cups coarse vermiculite  
3 cups perlite

Keep the unused soil in a closed container so that it will remain insect free. This lady goes on to say that she waters

with rainwater. I notice the lack of lime in this recipe. Be sure and check the pH if you should try this one.

The most common recipe for wick watering that appears in articles and Internet chat groups is the 1-1-1 recipe which follows:

1 part sphagnum peat moss  
1 part coarse perlite  
1 part coarse vermiculite

I have been buying the three above ingredients in 8-qt bags and use the entire bag of each for my 1-1-1 part mixture.

Many people use only the mix above. Others, including myself, add the following:

1 qt. Horticultural charcoal  
1/2 cup dolomite lime  
1 1/4 cups bone/blood meal.

This past summer, an Internet group to which I belong had a discussion about Wal-Mart 96-cent plastic self-watering pots and Miracle Grow Moisture Control Soil. So off I went to Wal-Mart and purchased both. I planted one no-name violet in the soil and plastic pot and bless its little soul, it has never stopped blooming. Seems I never have to take spent blooms from it and it's always there smiling to greet me.

I have a number of my plants in the 96-cent pots, which are bottom watering pots, and they do well; I have only used the 1-1-1 soil mixture that I use for wicking.

**Note:** Since this was written, I have purchased two identical no-name violets, same size and same number of blooms and have put one in my soil and one in Miracle Grow Moisture Control with perlite mixed in. They were potted the same way, with perlite in bottom of pot, and I have them side by side on the plant stand. I water both from the bottom. Only time will tell how they react, but after one month, I can see no change in either of them.

JUST REMEMBER, IF YOU TRY THESE RECIPES, DO SO WITH CAUTION! They might not work for you in your conditions. Try on only a few plants at first to see how it reacts to the way you grow violets.

# Showcase

## *Ness' Happy Freckles*

*Exhibited by: Dixie Williams*

*Hybridized by: D. Ness*

*Small Standard*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*

## *Red Mount Fuji*

*Exhibited by: Kathy Lahti*

*Hybridized by:*

*Horikoshi/Kawakami*

*Standard*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*



Photo Credit: **Pat Hancock**

## ***Buckeye Irish Rose***

*New for 2002*

*Hybridized & Grown by: **Pat Hancock***



*Father Art*

# Father Art's Violets

Adapted from **THE MAAVS MEMO** by the original author, George McDonald

In July, 2001, Father Arturo Borja posted an e-mail letter on the African Violet Connection asking for some violet seeds. A Jesuit priest in the Philippines, he has lost his entire collection of violets due to unusually hot weather.

I am a "hobby hybridizer," and had just sown seeds from about ten crosses. Since I had a number of pods left, I sent them to Father Art. To me it was a simple act of sharing, and cost me the price of an overseas postage stamp.

It was more than that to him. He wrote: "You are one of the kindest and generous violet persons I have come to know, and I feel very blessed." I had never thought that fifteen or twenty little AV seed pods would be so important to anyone.

Father Art, in addition to being assigned to San Jose Major Seminary in Quezon City, Philippines, is also a clinical psychologist. He doesn't teach academic subjects, but is in charge of a "Spiritual Pastoral Formation Year" which takes place between the second and third academic years of the seminarians' studies. This is a time for them intensely to consider their calling. "So many concerns arise and so much of themselves comes out, and I have to accompany them in this journey," he wrote me. He is also on the admissions committee of the seminary as their resident psychologist. Being both psychological and spiritual mentor for the students keeps him very busy.

Then he added: "Sometimes when the going gets really rough, I find solace in taking care of plants. Besides my natural love for plants, through the years, I have realized that they are also very therapeutic for me."

Since he is a priest under a vow of poverty, Father Art cannot afford to belong to AVSA, which entitles him to copies of the African Violet Magazine. He does, however, check out the AVSA website, and a number of other sites dedicated to

African violets.

I asked the Board of Directors of the Mid-Atlantic African Violet Society to provide Fr. Art with a membership in AVSA. During their fall convention, on November 10, 2001, the general membership of MAAVS unanimously voted to send him a three year membership, which includes a subscription to the African Violet Magazine.

I joyfully wrote him the news when I got home from the convention. He wrote back:

"I can hardly believe what I've just read from your message. I will not deny that there are actually tears flowing rather freely right now. George, I don't know what to say. I'm simply humbled by your kindness. You might be interested to know that just minutes before I received your email, I was actually looking at pictures of violets from the website of Karen Panek of New Zealand. This kind lady had actually promised to send me leaves earlier, but because of the developments since September the 11th, I just had to let go of this chance. And naturally I felt bad, and so to 'console' myself, I just surfed the pictures in her website and simply admired them. And then, when I opened your letter, BANG! the BIG SURPRISE!"

He recently wrote me that he had received his first copy of the AV Magazine. I'm sure that he will make time in his busy schedule to read almost every word of it.

As I have continued to communicate with Father Art, I have discovered a rare and gentle spirit of a man; humble, gracious, with a deep love of beauty as well as a love of truth. And a marvelous sense of humor.

We call ourselves the African Violet Society of America, but Father Arturo Borja has taught me again that our love of African violets has created a community that extends around the earth. What a joy to be a part of this global community, based on our love of a little purple flower from Africa.

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## DO YOU STERILIZE YOUR SOIL?

Do you sterilize your soil before use? Some people don't, and others swear by it. Opinions and methods vary. The standard method is to place your slightly damp soil in a roaster pan, place in the oven, and bring the temperature up to 180 degrees, holding it there for thirty minutes. A meat thermometer can be used for accuracy.

In October of 2001 on the Garden Web violet forum site, the topic of microwaving the soil was discussed for several days. One person suggested using the probe if your microwave has one. Another put soil in his pots (many use three ounce Solo cups) cover lightly, and microwave for one to two minutes. Repeat heating once more. In this case, the steam is doing

the job. Just don't heat until the cup melts! Another grower uses baggies to hold the damp soil and zaps for two to three minutes. Let this stand for ten minutes to steam. One writer cautions about microwaving store-bought potting soil mixes because of the various additives.

Whichever method you choose, or whether you choose not to sterilize is a matter of personal preference. Many growers wouldn't dream of not sterilizing. For others, it isn't necessary. As usual, whatever works for you, in your conditions, is right for you. If it ain't broke don't fix it!

*From the Newsletter of the Victoria AVS, Victoria, TX*

# Coming Events



## May 1 - 4 - CANADA

AVS of Canada 35th Annual Convention/Show  
Hosted By: Stamped City AVS  
Best Western Village Park Inn  
1804 Crowchild Trail NW  
Calgary, AL, Canada  
Registration Forms: Email: show2002@avsc.ca  
Info: Winston J. Goretzky (403) 241 - 8300

## May 3 & 4 - ILLINOIS

Late Bloomers AVC Show/Sale  
Freepoint Lincoln Mall  
1265 West Galena Ave.  
Freeport, IL  
May 3 - 10am - 8pm  
May 4 - 9am - 5pm  
Info: Janice Judd (608) 325 - 7273

## May 3 - 5 - NEW JERSEY

Garden State AVS 51st Show/Sale  
Market Fair Mall  
Route 1 South  
Princeton, NJ  
May 3 - noon - 9pm  
May 4 - 10am - 9pm  
May 5 - 10am - 4pm

## May 3 - 5 - NEW YORK

AVS of Syracuse  
49th Show/Sale  
Shoppingtown Mall  
5649 Erie Blvd. East  
Syracuse, NY  
May 3 - Noon - 9:30pm  
May 4 - 10am - 9:30pm  
May 5 - 11am - 6pm

## May 3 - 5 - PENNSYLVANIA

AVS of Springfield Show/Sale  
Springfield Mall  
Rt 1 & Rt 320  
Springfield, PA  
May 3 - Noon - 9pm  
May 4 - 10am - 9pm  
May 5 - 11am - 4pm  
Info: Joan Santino (610) 485 - 0211  
Brenda Nyce (610) 724 - 1953

## May 4 - FLORIDA

Heart of Florida Exhibit/Sale  
Leu gardens  
1920 N. Forest Ave.  
Orlando, FL  
Hours: Noon - 5pm  
Info: Ron Bannister (407) 365 - 4119  
Email: violetstb@aol.com

## May 4 & 5 - CALIFORNIA

Ventura County AVS Judged Show/Sale  
Pacific View Mall  
Main Street & Mills Rd.  
Ventura, CA  
Mall Hours  
Info: Adrienne Stringer (661) 296 - 6440  
Email: YCAVS1@aol.com

## May 4 & 5 - OHIO

AVS of Dayton Show  
Towne Mall  
Middletown, OH  
May 4 - Noon - 9pm  
May 5 - Noon - 4pm  
Info: JoAnne Brown (513) 777 - 7041

## May 4 & 5 - CALIFORNIA

Carlsbad AVS 7th Annual Judged Show/Sale  
Westfield Mall/Plaza Camino Real  
Carlsbad, CA  
May 4 - 1pm - 5pm  
May 5 - 11am - 3pm  
Info: Parry Ragan (310) 372-1771  
Email: pirbldy579@cs.com

## May 4 & 5 - CALIFORNIA

AVS South Bay Show/Sale  
Westgate Mall  
1600 Saratoga Ave  
San Jose, CA  
May 4 - 9am - 7pm  
May 5 - 9am - 4pm  
Info: Irene Thomas (650) 369 - 3452

## May 4 & 5 - CONNECTICUT

Silvermine AVS Judged Show/Sale  
Nature Center for Environmental Activities  
10 Woodside Lane  
Westport, CT  
May 4 - 1:30pm - 5pm  
May 5 - Noon - 4pm  
Info: Marjorie Rosenberg (203) 226-1784  
Email: savs\_ct01@hotmail.com

## May 4 & 5 - MISSOURI

Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council  
47th Show/Sale  
Missouri Botanical Garden  
4344 Shaw Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO  
Both Days: 9am - 5pm  
Info: Fran Russom (314) 647 - 5892

## May 4 & 5 - MASSACHUSETTS

Bay State AVS Show/Sale  
Waltham Field Station  
240 Beaver St.  
Waltham, MA  
May 4 - 1pm - 4pm  
May 5 - 10am - 3pm  
Info: Bob Clark (978) 738 - 6983  
Email: thecoppse@yahoo.com

## May 4 & 5 - OHIO

AVS of Dayton Annual Show  
Towne Mall at I-75  
Middletown, OH  
May 4 - Noon - 9pm  
May 5 - Noon - 4pm  
Info: JoAnne Brown (513) 777 - 7041

## May 4 & 5 - MISSOURI

Sho-Me AVC Annual Show  
Loose Park Garden Center  
5200 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Kansas City, MO  
May 4 - 10am - 3pm  
May 5 - 10am - 2pm  
Info: Julie Fox (816) 532 - 4258  
Email: jewell01@earthlink.net

## May 4 & 5 - WISCONSIN

Oshkosh Violet Society 22nd Annual Show/Sale  
St. Josephat Church  
1333 Walnut Street  
Oshkosh, WI  
May 4 - 10am - 5pm  
May 5 - Noon - 4:30pm  
Info: Cathy (920) 685 - 5262  
Kevin (920) 426 - 3764

## May 4 & 5 - NEBRASKA

Omaha AVS Show/Sale  
Lauritsen Gardens,  
Omaha Botanical Center  
100 Bancroft  
Omaha, NE  
Both Days: Noon - 5pm  
Info: Joyce Stork (402) 721-1478  
Email: kents@vonline.net

## May 4 & 5 - NOVA SCOTIA

First Halifax AVS Show/Sale  
Museum of Natural History  
Summer St.  
Halifax, NS  
May 4 - 1pm - 5pm  
May 5 - 1pm - 4pm

## May 9 - 11 - OHIO

Violets & Friends AVC Judged Show/Sale  
Miami Valley Center Mall  
175 & Rt 36  
Piqua, Ohio  
May 9 - 1pm - 9pm  
May 10 & 11 - 10am - 9pm  
Info: Dixie Gunsaulus (937) 653 - 5041

## May 10 - FLORIDA

Suncoast AVS Sale  
St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church  
3747 34th St.  
St. Petersburg, FL  
Info: Sue McFarlan (727) 866 - 8830

## May 10 & 11 - OHIO

Parmatown AVS Show/Sale  
Parmatown Mall  
7899 West Ridgewood Dr.  
Parma, OH  
May 10 - 9am - 9pm  
May 11 - 9am - 6pm  
Info: Martha Bell (330) 483 - 3546

## May 10 & 11 - IOWA

Evening AVC of Des Moines  
Show/Sale  
Des Moines Botanical Center  
May 10 - 5pm - 9pm  
May 11 - 10am - 5pm  
Info: Angi Allison (515) 387 - 8557

## May 10 & 11 - LOUISIANA

Top Choice AVC of Shreveport Mother's Day Sale  
Barriwell Center, Wafer Room  
Shreveport, LA  
Both Days 1pm - 5pm

## May 11 & 12 - CALIFORNIA

FootHill AVS Display/Sale  
Westfield Shoppingtown  
The Plaza at West Covina  
112 Plaza Drive  
West Covina, CA  
May 11 - 10am - 8pm  
May 12 - 11am - 7pm  
Info: Jean Buczynski (626) 966 - 0361  
Email: jbviolet@mindspring.com

## May 11 - CALIFORNIA

Fancy Bloomers AVS Mother's Day Sale  
Coddington Mall  
Guernville Rd. at Hwy. 101  
Hours: 10am - 4pm or until sold out  
Info: Byron Borck (707) 527 - 8362

## May 11 - WISCONSIN

Cross-town & Sundowners Clubs Sale  
Olbrich Botanical Gardens  
3330 Atwood Ave.  
Madison, WI  
Hours: 10am - 4pm  
Info: Alice Peterson (608) 833 - 5552

## May 11 - CANADA

AVS of Greater Montreal Show/Sale  
Church of Resurrection  
99 Mount Pleasant Ave.  
Point Elaine, Que.  
Hours: 10am - 4pm  
Info: Anne Herbatuk (450) 667 - 1976

## May 11 - MARYLAND

Baltimore African Violet Club Sale  
Catonville United Methodist Church  
Melvin Avenue  
Catonville, MD  
Hours: 9am - 4pm  
Info: Shirley Huffman (301) 953-7554  
Email: Bshuffman2@aol.com

## May 18 - ILLINOIS

Glenview/North Shore AVS Show  
Chicago Botanic Garden  
Lake Cook Rd. & Edens Expwy  
Parking for non-members \$7.00  
Info: (847) 729 - 1690

## May 26 - CANADA

Toronto AVS Show/Sale  
Civic Garden Center  
Edwards Gardens  
777 Lawrence Ave. E  
Toronto, ON  
Hours: 11am - 5pm  
Info: Jean Hamilton (416) 491 - 9719 after 6pm

## June 15 - INDIANA

Hoosier AVS Display/Sale  
Crown Point Civic Center  
Crown Point, IN  
Hours: 9am - 5pm  
Info: Jean Willey (219) 663 - 5451  
Sue Andresen (219) 766 - 3882

## June 22 - OREGON

Portland AV Association Display/Sale  
Taber Heights Methodist Church  
6161 SE Stark  
Portland, OR  
Hours: 10am - 4pm  
Info: Charlotte Smith (503) 771 - 5762  
Ruth Jones (503) 223 - 9855



# Showcase

## *Rob's Bee Boopsie*

Exhibited by: **Corolyn Conlin-Lane**

AVS of Canada National Show

Hybridized by: **R. Robinson**

*Miniature*



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

## *Jonathan*

Exhibited by: **Greta Durand**

AVS of Canada National Show

Hybridized by: **D. Croteau**

*Standard*



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



*Photo Credit: Pat Hancock*

## *Aca's Flying Free*

*Grown by: Doris Brownlie*

*Hybridized by: J. Brownlie*

*Standard*

# 2002 Vacation Guide

Compiled by David Buttram

Whether planning a trip to the AVSA Convention in Washington, D.C., a visit to family and friends, or a trip into the country, be sure to include a stop at one or more AVSA Commercial members, where the latest African violets will be on display and available for you. Be sure to pick up that hard-to-find item for growing bigger and better African violets. Please note that several growers are available by

appointment only. The necessary arrangements for your visit should be made by mail or phone.

The list of growers is laid out as though you were driving in a southwest direction from Maine to New York, then south to Florida. Then the growers are listed in a zig-zag manner, winding up in Washington.

## Chestnut Country Violets

Lisa DiMambro  
182 Old Chester Tnkp, Chester, NH 03036  
603-887-0352  
E-mail: info@chestnutcountryviolets.com  
By appointment.  
Retail, Standards, Minis, Variegates, limited  
Gesneriads.

## Smith's Country Cottage

Geoff. Smith  
109 Ogden Parma T.L. Rd., Spencerport, NY 14559  
716-352-6445  
10-5. Call first.  
Retail, limited Wholesale, Standards, Minis,  
Variegates, Supplies.

## Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses, Inc.

Paul Sorano  
14 Mutchler St., P.O. Box 249  
Dolgeville, NY 13329  
315-429-8291  
E-mail: info@lyndonlyon.com  
8-5 (Mon-Fri), 10-4 (Sat),  
Noon-4 (Sun-Summer only).  
African violets, Gesneriads, Orchids. Located just ten  
minutes off Interstate 90, in the foothills of the  
Adirondack Mountains.  
Website: www.lyndonlyon.com

## Violet Venture

Fay Wagman  
52 Harper Dr., Pittsford, NY 14534  
585-381-6384  
E-mail: fayw@aol.com  
By appointment - please call ahead. Visitors  
welcome.  
Retail, Standards, Minis, Supplies, Variegates,  
Gesneriads.



## Rob's Violets

Rob & Olive Ma Robinson  
7209 County Rd. 12, (P.O. Box 9),  
Naples, NY 14512  
585-374-8592  
E-mail: robsviolet@aol.com  
Noon -5, every day. Closed Thanksgiving,  
Christmas, New Years Day.  
African violets, gesneriads, rare and unusual  
flowering houseplants. We ship anywhere in the  
world, anytime of the year. Tours welcome.  
Website: www.robsviolet.com

## VioletsFun Journal

Olive Ma Robinson  
7209 County Rd. 12, (P.O. Box 9),  
Naples, NY 14512  
585-374-8592  
E-mail: violetsfun@aol.com  
Noon -5, every day.  
Color photo journal.  
Website: www.robsviolet.com

## Violet Gallery

Mahlen & Brenda Petry  
1590 Cranberry Rd., York Springs, PA 17372  
717-528-8268  
E-mail: mpetry@cvn.net  
By appointment, please call.  
Retail, Standards, Minis, Variegates, Supplies.  
Website: www.violetgallery.com

## Tinari Greenhouses

Frank & Anne Tinari  
2325 Valley Rd., Box 190,  
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006  
215-947-0144 FAX 215-947-2163  
E-mail: lil@tinarigreenhouses.com  
8-5 (Mon-Sat), 1-5 (Sun)  
(Closed Sun - June thru Sept.).  
Retail, Standards, Minis, Variegates, Supplies. We  
specialize in African violet arrangements for  
every occasion.  
Website: www.tinarigreenhouses.com



## Violets & More

Eldon & Naomi Martin  
3217 State Line Rd., Waynesboro, PA 17268  
717-762-4130  
Please call for hours.  
Variety gift shop, Standards, Minis (some), Supplies

## The Behnke Nurseries Co.

Sonja Behnke Festerling, President  
11300 Baltimore Ave., Beltsville, MD 20705  
9545 River Road, Potomac, MD 20854  
700 Watkins Park Drive, Largo, MD 20772  
Beltsville - 301-937-1100;  
Potomac - 301-983-9200;  
Largo - 301-249-2492  
E-Mail behnkes@ari.net  
Phone first - hours change with seasons.  
Full service retail garden center, known for quality  
plants since 1930.  
Website: www.behnke.com

## Arts & Crafts by Eloisa

Eloisa Wilson  
P.O. Box 220114, Chantilly, VA 20153  
703-815-1984  
E-mail: eloisa@cal50.com  
24/7 - Internet only: www.violetpots.com  
Retail, Supplies - ceramic African violet pots.

## Carousel of Violets

Bonnie N. Cheek  
1403-C S. Stratford Rd., Winston-Salem, NC 27103  
336-760-2898  
1-5 (Mon), 10-5 (Tues-Sat).  
Retail - Supplies. Will sell leaves if ordered in  
advance.

## Bluebird Greenhouse

Libbie Glembocki  
4821 Jessie Rd., Apex, NC 27502  
919-362-0530 FAX: 919-362-5822  
E-mail: libbie@arglobal.net  
9-12 weekdays. Afternoons and weekends by  
appointment.  
Retail, Wholesale, Violets, orchids, supplies.  
Website: www.bluebirdgreenhouse.com





#### Travis' Violets

Travis & Darlene Davis  
2064 Ellen St., P.O. Box 42, Ochlocknee, GA 31773  
912-574-5236 FAX: 912-574-5605  
E-mail: tviolets@aol.com  
Open 7 days a week (our choice) with an appointment.  
Retail, Wholesale, Blooming plants available from May through November, supplies.

#### Violets From The Stars

George & Estelle Starr  
2602 Graupera St., Pensacola, FL 32507  
850-456-2662  
E-mail: gbstart@juno.com  
Call for appointment.  
Retail, Wholesale, Standards, Minis, Variegates, Supplies.  
Our emphasis is on the "Starlight African Violet Lamp"

#### Pat's Patch

Pat Hancock  
7118 Barrett Rd., West Chester, OH 45069  
513-777-2524  
Monday through Saturday. Please call for appointment.  
"Buckeye" and other hobby hybrids, standard African violets, "Super Soil," starter plants, leaves, oymama pots.  
Moving in early summer to 7132 Shurz Rd., Jacksonburg, OH 45056

#### Belisle's

Marcia Belisle  
P.O. Box 111, Radisson, WI 54867  
715-945-2687  
By appointment.  
Retail, Standards, Minis, Variegates, Gesneriads.

#### Kent's Flowers

Kent & Joyce Stork  
2501 E. 23rd, Fremont, NE 68025  
402-721-1478  
E-mail: kents@tvsonline.net  
9-5 (Mon.-Sat.) Closed Sun.  
Retail, Supplies.

#### The Violet Showroom

Shannon & Pam Ahlman  
2605 Brahma, Grand Island, NE 68801  
308-382-2554 FAX: 308-382-2234  
E-mail: sahlman1@aol.com  
By appointment only.  
Retail, Wholesale, Supplies.

#### Pat's Pets

Gary & Pat Dunlap  
4189 Jarvis Rd., Hillsboro, MO 63050  
636-789-3604  
E-mail: patspets@jcn1.com  
Please contact us for appointment.  
African violets, gesneriads, potting mix, supplies.  
Internet catalog at [www.jcn1.com/patspets](http://www.jcn1.com/patspets)

#### Dave's Violets

David Harris  
1572 S. Kentwood Ave.,  
Springfield, MO 65804-0220  
417-887-8904  
E-mail: plantman@ipa.net  
By appointment only.  
Retail, Wholesale.

#### Sonja's Violets

Sonja J. Holm  
15980 W. Warden Rd., Omaha, AR 72662  
870-426-1791  
10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.  
Standard plants, large blossoms.

#### Bayou Violets

Genelle Armstrong  
1313 Gardenia Dr., Metairie, LA 70005  
504-837-4037  
Appointment only (home).  
Limited number of plants for sale. Catalog available - mail leaves only, \$1.00 to Genelle Armstrong.

#### Teas Nursery

Teas Family  
4400 Bellaire Blvd., Bellaire, TX 77401  
713-664-4400 FAX: 713-295-5144  
E-mail: teas@teasnursery.com  
8:30-6:30 (Mon.-Fri.), 8-6 (Sat.), 9-6 (Sun.)  
Retail, Supplies, Full service garden center.  
Website: [www.teasnursery.com](http://www.teasnursery.com)

#### Jos Violets

Joanne Schrimsher  
2205 College Dr., Victoria, TX 77901  
361-575-1344  
E-mail: josviolet@yahoo.com  
Visitors by appointment only.  
African violets and supplies.  
Website: [geocities.com/josviolet](http://geocities.com/josviolet)

#### Shirley's House of Violets

Sandy & Shirley Sanders  
1054 Rayburn Dr., San Antonio, TX 78221  
9-5 (Mon-Fri).  
Retail, Standards, Minis, Variegates, Soil, Pots, Fertilizer

#### Iva's Violets

Iva Kertz  
1001 Elm St., Orange, TX 77630  
409-670-0580; 409-886-5774  
E-mail: noraxxx@pxx.com  
Hours vary, please call.  
Violets and supplies.  
Website: [plantsociety.com](http://plantsociety.com)

#### Hill Country African Violets & Nursery

Ken Froboese  
32005 I.H. 10 West, Boerne, TX 78006  
850-249-2614 FAX: 850-249-8658  
8-6, 7 days a week  
NO LISTS - NO SHIPPING Complete retail nursery.  
Visitors welcome.

#### The Violet Showcase

Douglas & Barbara Crispin  
3147 So. Broadway, Englewood, CO 80110  
303-761-1770 FAX: 303-762-1808  
E-mail: [inquiry@violetshowcase.com](mailto:inquiry@violetshowcase.com)  
10-5 daily. Closed Tues & Sun  
African violets and growing supplies.  
Website: [violetshowcase.com](http://violetshowcase.com).

#### Violets of the West

Jean Miller  
6661 Upham Dr., Arvada, CO 80005  
303-421-3195  
Call for appointment.  
African violets, gesneriads.

#### Hattie Baggett's African Violets

Hattie Baggett  
HCR 2, Box 381, Tucson, AZ 85735-9714  
520-822-5060  
E-mail: [viobaggett@aol.com](mailto:viobaggett@aol.com)  
By appointment.  
Standards, oldies, and newer varieties.

#### Maril Products, Inc.

Anne & Tom Whitehair  
320 West 6th St., Tustin, CA 92780  
714-544-7711  
E-mail: [physan@earthlink.net](mailto:physan@earthlink.net)  
7-4 (Mon-Thurs) 7-12 (Fri).  
We manufacture and sell Physan 20 greenhouse disinfectant - a great product for use with African violets.

#### Dyna-Gro

David Neal  
1065 Broadway, San Pablo, CA 94806  
510-233-0254  
E-mail: [info@dyna-gro.com](mailto:info@dyna-gro.com)  
8:30-4 (Mon. - Fri.).  
Retail, Wholesale - Supplies (Fertilizer, media).

#### Violet Perfection by Gini

Gini McCanne  
1420 Oxford Ave. Claremont, CA 91711  
909-624-8331  
E-mail: [violetperfection@earthlink.net](mailto:violetperfection@earthlink.net)  
By appointment only.  
Plants, self-watering pots, also streps.  
Website: [violetperfection.com](http://violetperfection.com)

#### Mighty Minis

Jeanie Stokes  
7318 Sahara Court, Sacramento, CA 95828-3905  
916-421-7284  
8-5 (Mon.-Fri.) and weekends by appointment.  
Retail, Wholesale, Supplies

#### Alannah's Greenhouses

Alannah Regan  
Box 2, Danville, WA 99121  
250-442-2552  
By appointment.  
Retail, Standards, Minis, Variegates, Gesneriads, Mail Order.  
Website: [www.alannah.com](http://www.alannah.com)

# Showcase

## *Aca's Little Champ*

*Exhibited by: Denise Gagnon*

*AVS of Canada National Show*

*Hybridized by: J. Brownlie*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*

## *Tiny Moon Goddess*

*Exhibited by: Emma Bygott*

*AVS of Canada National Show*

*Miniature*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*

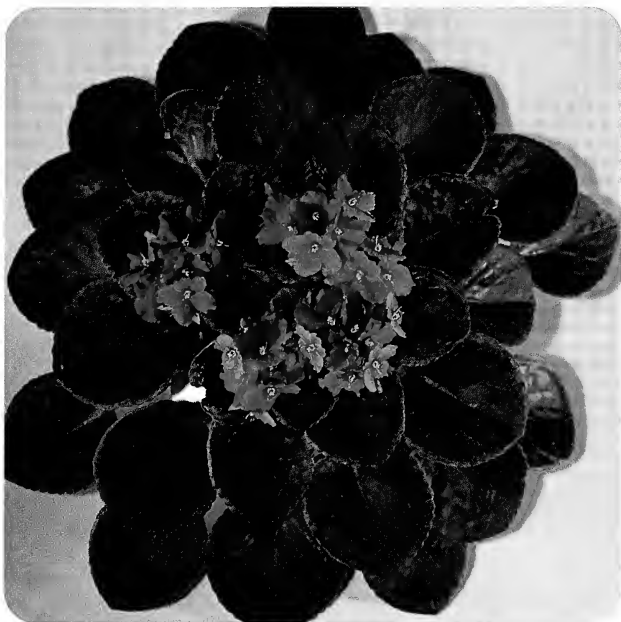


Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

### ***Coeur Corail***

*Exhibited by: Denis Croteau  
AVS of Canada National Show  
Standard*

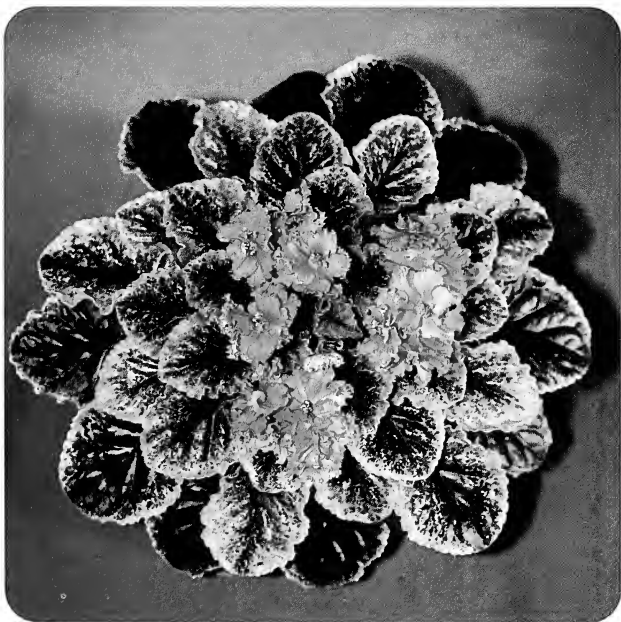


Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

### ***Ness' Candy Pink***

*Exhibited by: Greta Durand  
AVS of Canada National Show  
Hybridized by: D. Ness  
Standard*

# Repotting African Violets

by Dr. Ralph Robinson

African violets should be repotted about twice a year, or every 5-6 months. Once mature, this simply means repotting the plant with some fresh soil, into the same size pot. Never use a pot larger than the plants root system - for standards, this usually means about a 4" pot, for minis and semiminis, a pot no larger than 2 1/2". Over the course of time, your violet will have lost (or had removed) its older, lower leaves, forming a "neck". Repotting is necessary to eliminate this.

**African violet with "neck".** A "neck" is the palm-tree like trunk that appears over time as the lower rows of leaves are removed. A well-grown violet should have its lowest row of leaves growing from the trunk at soil-level. When a neck exists, the lowest row of leaves are well above the soil level and pot rim. By repotting, this unsightly neck can be eliminated. This is easiest to do when done regularly, about every 5-6 months.

**Cut-away bottom of root ball.** Remove plant from its pot and remove from the bottom of the root ball an amount equal to the size of the neck - i.e. if the neck is 1/2" long, remove 1/2" from the bottom of the root ball. This is why repotting is best done regularly, before the neck becomes too long. For example, in an extreme case, where a plant has a 2" neck, we would need to remove 2" from the bottom of the root ball. If the pot is only 2 1/4" deep, then nearly the entire root system would need to be removed!! By repotting when the neck is still small, very little of the root system needs to be removed, and the plant will show few, if any, effects from repotting.

**Push plant back into same size pot.** If this is a mature plant, a larger pot is not needed. Since a bottom portion of the root ball has been removed, the violet can now be pushed lower into the pot. The objective is to lower the plant enough so that the lowest row of leaves is even with the pot rim (i.e. no neck will be evident).

**Add fresh soil.** The violet should now be lower in its

pot, so that its lowest row of leaves is level with the pot rim. Add fresh soil, up to pot rim, covering the neck. The neck will produce new roots into the added soil.

**The repotted violet.** Once repotting is finished, no neck should be visible, and soil level and lower leaves should be even with the pot rim. Label the pot, and lightly water the plant. This is important - until the plant begins to develop new roots in the added soil, it will require less water than before (it has a smaller root system). The more drastic the repotting, the more this is the case.

## Other tips.

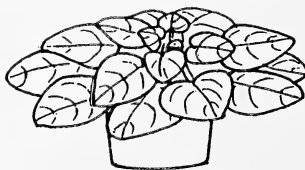
Improper pot size, poor soil, and too infrequent repotting are probably the most common causes of unhealthy violets amongst inexperienced growers. Though a miniature violet was used in this example, the same procedure is used for standard-size varieties. Most standards (unless grown for exhibition), are quite comfortable in a 4" pot - repotting does not mean continually putting violets in progressively larger pots! Use only a pot as large as the root system - adding soil only benefits the plant if it can develop a root system large enough to use that soil.

A very light, porous, soilless potting mix is very highly recommended for most growers. If buying a commercially-available mix, judge a soil by its feel, not by its label! So-called "African violet soils" are often the worst soil mixes for violets! Look for mixes with plenty of vermiculite and/or perlite (1/3 to 1/2 of soil mix), with a light, fluffy, consistency. Avoid thick, dark, heavy soil mixes. Though an experienced grower can grow beautiful plants in almost anything, a light, soilless mix is much more forgiving of over/under watering and infrequent repotting and neglect.

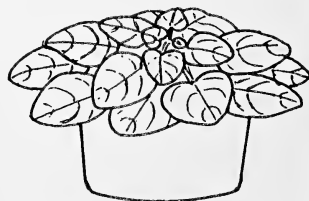
*From Chatter, publication of the AVS of Canada*



UNDERPOTTED



GOOD PROPORTION



OVERPOTTED

# My First Time Exhibiting

by Terri L. Seymour



I had been looking forward to the show since last year. I had planned to help sell plants or anything else I could do, just to be around all the violets and valuable information.

I had read all of the rules and, with a friend's enthusiasm and can-do attitude, we each decided to enter two designs. We called to pre-register each design, and I also entered a *Streptocarpus* in the show.

Finally, it was the day before the show. We arrived at the location and began to set-up our designs. We brought all of our equipment, clay, material for the backdrop, and most importantly, all of the plants I was planning on using for blooms.

I finished the entire design and was very happy. One of the experienced growers suggested bringing fresh blossoms in the morning, in case a few of them were sagging. What? I needed more blossoms! I had taken every one from every plant I had. I would just have to pray that they would be all right.

The morning of the show, I arrived early to help set-up and introduce myself since I had volunteered to clerk for the judges. I took a quick look at my designs, which looked okay.

After everything had been judged, I had received two blue ribbons. There was one design that was unable to be judged because part of it was touching the niche, and the Schedule rules had specified that no part of the design could touch the niche. What made it a positive experience is that the judges took extra time to write a brief note of explanation on the entry card. That meant almost as much as the blue ribbons. At least I understood what I was supposed to be doing!

I have learned from my first time experience to bring in the bare design and set it up, leaving the flowers for the next morning. Since all of the flowers are cut from the violets, even though they are in water, they will wilt very fast. So, make sure that you don't use every blossom you have. And, most of all, make sure that your design does not touch the niche!

I was really impressed with the helpfulness of everyone at the show. I was nervous enough the first time, but they made it a pleasurable experience. Last and most importantly, you've got to have fun. Take it seriously, but, have fun! Look out next year!

From *Ye Bay Stater*, publication of the Bay State AVS



## Heat Could be the Problem

by Ina Beaver  
Canada

Are your plants beautiful, large, and healthy? Are there lots of buds, but each one has brown spots and when it opens, the flowers are blotched with brown? Also, the flowers are very small. Sometimes the bud grows, then just shrivels up on the plant.

When considering this problem, I consulted three knowledgeable growers, and we agree that high heat sounds like the problem. My few double or triple blossomed plants such as 'Irish Flirt' and 'Suncoast Circus Candy', always have some brown petals in the bloom every summer, and often buds will dry up on many plants when the temperatures soar.

If this is the answer to the problem, try to reduce the heat in the growing area, but also disbudding and reducing fertilizing will help plants cope with stress. Misting is a good idea, but do try to keep the humidity up to perhaps forty to fifty percent if possible.

Sometimes a plant will grow tight centers - usually from heat, too small a pot, perhaps too much fertilizer, although the latter usually shows up in crystals in the center first. One cure is to remove it from its pot, wash all the soil from the roots, and let it grow for a couple of weeks suspended on a glass with roots submerged in water with a few pieces of charcoal to keep the water sweet.

Repot in light fresh soil in a clean pot. If the plant had recently been repotted, perhaps the light it received was too intense. Remove it for a few days to a darker area, even placing a circle of white paper over the crown may help. Always drench with clear water every month or so. It keeps plants happy, and removes excessive fertilizer.

From *Chatter*, Journal of the AVS of Canada



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

## *“The Museum of Science and Industry”*

*Design by: Jeanne Cotton*

# Through Novice Eyes

by Brenda Stride

What pot do I choose and where do I begin? Plastic pots, ceramic pots, terracotta pots, clay pots, strawberry pots, Texas pots, azalea pots! Aie-e-e-e! There are 2 inch, 2 1/2 inch, 3 1/2 inch and up of many of these pots. There are pots which come with a saucer and there are others that have a fancy, built-in water reservoir. There are plain pots and there are pots that have been creatively decorated. Which one do I choose? Help!

Not only are there different pots but there are different sizes of gesneriads and not just any pot will do. I, the extreme novice, would just grab any old pot that appealed to me and plunk my newest treasure in it; whereas, the gesneriad grower (aka fanatic) in the family would "tsk-tsk" me and then proceed to tell me why one should use a specific diameter and a specific depth of pot for specific gesneriads. He would even go on to explain the minute details of rounded rims versus straight-edge rims. He will have lost me after the first "tsk-tsk"!

However, and there is a big however in this "potty" situation. If you are growing to show, then there are criteria that must be met in the pot's dimensions. If you are just growing a plant because you like the look of the plant, then you can more or less choose any pot your little ole heart desires, keeping a few points in mind.

When growing African violets for show, you should choose a pot that is 1/3 the diameter of your plant. Miniature African violets would usually stay in a 2 1/4 or 2 1/2 inch pot and a standard African violet would be best in a 3 1/2 inch to 4 inch pot. In my estimations, these standard plastic pots (white or green) do not distract the viewer from the plant, which is what is the intent, and the pot is just large enough so that the plant does not fall over, nor does it look lost in too large of a pot. When I think about the first African violet that I ever owned, I know that I repotted it many times into larger pots. What I now know is that this healthy, miniature African violet soon was most definitely over-developed.

Squatty pots are great for African violets and other members of this family, because all gesneriads have shallow root systems. I have even seen many tubers of sinningias exposed above the soil of a shallow pot and producing quite a lovely plant.

My husband, who at times can be a little fanatical about potting, would also not usually pot a gesneriad in a clay pot. His reasoning is that the clay pot loses moisture too fast. He chooses plastic pots so that he will have to water less frequently. The clay pots may eventually have salt stains around the bottom edge and the once beautiful pot is now not quite so attractive. The one exception is using clay pots for *Streptocarpus* during the hot summer temperatures, since the extra evaporation helps to keep the plants roots. *Streptocarpus* suffer in the heat.

Of course, you have more choice of size, color and shape



with plastic pots. They are lightweight and will not usually break if dropped. They are readily available and are usually relatively inexpensive.

Personally, I like the pots which come with a built-in water reservoir or pots that can be wicked over a reservoir. I just fill up the tub of water every week or so and I don't have to do the little finger test in the soil to discover that the situation is either drought or drowning. For me, these pots have been a life-saver! On the other hand, don't ever give me anything in a strawberry pot (non-draining) because ... what can I say ... I drowned the poor thing! That's another story though.

Also, be cautious of the so-called African violet pots, the two part ceramic ones where the inner pot is not glazed and will absorb moisture from the outer section. If these outer pots are always kept full of water, the potting mix may become too moist. Always test and keep an eye on any new system that you may try on your plants.

To conclude this "potty" tale, I would have to quote the gesneriad grower of the family. He states that if you are growing for show, then the pot must meet certain criteria. However, if not growing for show purposes, don't ignore those fancy pots because with a little ingenuity you can have your pot and plant, too. Instead of repotting directly into the fancy pot, you can actually build a base inside that will hold your plant high enough (we use over-turned plastic food containers slipped inside the ceramic pot). Then just slip your pot, with its tray, into the decorative pot. You can even use a reservoir tub to elevate your plant to the desired position. Voilà, you have your beautiful gesneriad displayed in the pot of your choice.

Now that you have selected the perfect pot for your beloved gesneriad, you will need dirt! But that too, is another story for another time!

*From the African Violet and Gesneriad News*

# Planting by Moon Signs

## Moon in Aries

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds, pests, etc., and for cultivating.

## Moon in Taurus

Productive and moist, earthy and feminine. Used for planting many crops, particularly potatoes and root crops, and when hardness is important. Also used for lettuce, cabbage, and similar leafy vegetables.

## Moon in Gemini

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds and pests, and for cultivation.

## Moon in Cancer

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. This is the most productive sign, used extensively for planting and irrigation.

## Moon in Leo

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. This is the most barren sign, used only for killing weeds and for cultivation.

## Moon in Virgo

Barren and moist, earthy and feminine. Good for cultivation and destroying weeds and pests.

## Moon in Libra

Semi-fruitful and moist, airy and masculine. Used for planting many crops and producing good pulp growth and roots. A very good sign for flowers and vines. Also used for seeding hay, corn fodder, etc.

## Moon in Scorpio

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Nearly as productive as Cancer; used for the same purposes. Especially good for vine growth and sturdiness.

## Moon in Sagittarius

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for planting onions, seeding hay, and for cultivation.

## Moon in Capricorn

Productive and dry, earthy and feminine. Used for planting potatoes, tubers, etc.

## Moon in Aquarius

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for cultivation and destroying noxious growths, weeds, and pests.

## Moon in Pisces

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Used along with Cancer and Scorpio, especially good for root growth.

May Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Wed.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	3rd
2 Thu. 11:43 pm	Aquarius	Air	Barren	3rd
3 Fri.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	3rd
4 Sat.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th 2:16 am
5 Sun. 10:46 am	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th
6 Mon.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th
7 Tue. 11:22 pm	Aries	Fire	Barren	4th
8 Wed.	Aries	Fire	Barren	4th
9 Thu.	Aries	Fire	Barren	4th
10 Fri. 11:32 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th
11 Sat.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th
12 Sun. 10:04 pm	Gemini	Air	Barren	New 5:45 am
13 Mon.	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st
14 Tue.	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st
15 Wed. 6:33 am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	1st
16 Thu.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	1st
17 Fri. 12:52 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	1st
18 Sat.	Leo	Fire	Barren	1st
19 Sun. 5:01 pm	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd 2:42 pm
20 Mon.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd
21 Tue. 7:19 pm	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	2nd
22 Wed.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	2nd
23 Thu. 8:38 pm	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	2nd
24 Fri.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	2nd
25 Sat. 10:20 pm	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd
26 Sun.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	Full 6:51 am
27 Mon.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd
28 Tue. 1:54 am	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	3rd
29 Wed.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	3rd
30 Thu. 8:35 am	Aquarius	Air	Barren	3rd
31 Fri.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	3rd

June Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Sat. 6:37 pm	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	3rd
2 Sun.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th 7:05 pm
3 Mon.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th
4 Tue. 6:51 am	Aries	Fire	Barren	4th
5 Wed.	Aries	Fire	Barren	4th
6 Thu. 7:07 pm	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th
7 Fri.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th
8 Sat.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th
9 Sun. 5:29 am	Gemini	Air	Barren	4th
10 Mon.	Gemini	Air	Barren	New 6:46 pm
11 Tue. 1:15 pm	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	1st
12 Wed.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	1st
13 Thu. 6:39 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	1st
14 Fri.	Leo	Fire	Barren	1st
15 Sat. 10:23 pm	Virgo	Earth	Barren	1st
16 Sun.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	1st
17 Mon.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd 7:29 pm
18 Tue. 1:11 am	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	2nd
19 Wed.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	2nd
20 Thu. 3:42 am	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	2nd
21 Fri.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	2nd
22 Sat. 6:42 am	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd
23 Sun.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd
24 Mon. 11:01 am	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	Full 4:42 pm
25 Tue.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	3rd
26 Wed. 5:36 pm	Aquarius	Air	Barren	3rd
27 Thu.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	3rd
28 Fri.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	3rd
29 Sat. 3:00 am	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	3rd
30 Sun.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	3rd

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# Getting Started

by Sharon Johnson  
Minnesota

By now, all the leaves you bought at the show should be sprouting, and by the end of July you will need to "pot up" the babies, or transplant some of the plants you purchased.

The first thing you will need is soil. You can either make your own or purchase it. A very simple recipe for a soilless mix is three parts Canadian Peat Moss, two parts Vermiculite, and one part Perlite. All of those ingredients should be available at any garden center. **Be sure to mix them all together before using.**

The next thing you will need is something to plant them in. I have found Solo three inch, white bathroom cups, available at grocery stores, work very well. All you need to do is punch three holes in the bottom of the cup, and label the cup with a permanent marker pen.

You can also buy 2 1/4" white pots, which also work well. Unfortunately, they are not available at any garden center so you may have to order them through a supplier. Many of my club members and I have used Cape Cod Violetry and have been very happy with the service. John Cook, the owner, is very knowledgeable about chemicals, so if you have a question, he may be able to help you. He does not accept credit cards, so he sends an invoice with the order. I have never had a problem with Cape Cod. The address is Cape Cod Violetry, Dept. AV 28 Minot St, Falmouth MA 02540, or email: [violets@cape.com](mailto:violets@cape.com).

If you are just starting to grow, you may need the following size pots: 2 1/4", 3", 4", and 5" white pots. They are also available in green, and it would be acceptable to enter them in a show in a green pot. If you wick water, you can save Cool

Whip containers, yogurt containers, or any plastic containers that have lids. All you need to do is cut a hole in the top. The plastic wick water reservoirs are very nice, because they have a recessed snap-on lid with two holes (one for the wick, and one to fill the container). They come in 8 oz, 16 oz, and 32 oz. sizes. The 32 oz. works very nice for standards, and you can also use them for minis or semi-minis. If I were just starting to wick my plants, I would try the cheap way first before buying reservoirs because you may not like wick watering. One little trick we have learned using reservoirs is to line them with plastic baggies (not Ziploc bags) using a gallon baggie for the 32 oz. container. It will save many hours of cleaning because all you do is toss them when you clean house.

You can also purchase the wicking material, or use three ply yarn, string, or used panty hose. Use only synthetic material, as cotton will rot. Cut in 1/4" strips.

If you are going to try mat watering, then you will need some type of tray and mat. I have used aluminum roasting pans, purchased a real cheap acrylic blanket, and after many washings to get rid of excess dye, cut to fit the pans. It worked nicely, but eventually, the pans developed leaks. You can also buy permanent trays and matting material from a commercial supplier. Again, I would first take the cheap way out and see what works best for you.

There are many other items you can buy, but if you look around your home, you may find many things you can use. Happy Growing!

*From the Violetter, publication of the North Star AV Council*



## The Benefits of Disbudding

by Richard Nicholas

Disbudding violets presents a number of benefits. When the violets are all disbudded is the perfect time to take care of spraying, leaching, or both.

If you need to spray for powdery mildew using a fungicide, or for thrips, with Raid House and Garden, this is the time. There are no blossoms to worry with or spray around.

Leaching is easier, as you can reach under the leaves without a worry about the loss of blossoms. This time is also far enough before shows to have the desired impact.

*From the Lone Star AV Council Newsletter*



# Summertime

by Sharon E. Johnson  
Minnesota

Ah, yes, the song says, "Summertime and the livin' is easy". However, it is not easy for our violets! As we know, the ideal temperature for them is between sixty-five to seventy-five degrees, but I do not know anyone that keeps their home that temperature - even with air conditioning. At the 1997 AVSA Convention, Dr. Charles Cole said that a ten degree change above or below the recommended temperatures can be devastating to violets.

What can we do to help them lead a better life? We must be flexible! Most of us have air conditioning, so why not use it? There are nights that cool off into the fifties and it makes very nice sleeping weather, but our plants are shivering. If possible, shut the windows at night where you have plants.

Another thing you can do is move the plants to a warmer room in your house, if possible. You may hear a few complaints from members of your family, so just tell them it is "temporary". Of course, if you don't have air conditioning, then you would move them to a cooler room in the house.

Fluorescent lights give off a lot of heat. Each bulb is forty watts so one set of a light fixture is like an eighty watt bulb burning, plus the ballast also generates heat. Why not switch your timer so it comes on in the late evening and off in the morning, thus generating less heat? I did that one winter when it was exceptionally cold, when I couldn't seem to keep the room warm enough. I had a mini blind on the south east window, so it stayed relatively dark during the day. Although plants need some rest from the grow lights, I did not notice any problems with the little bit of light that was in the room. You would have to experiment, but I think it is worth trying.

Repot before summer comes. If you give your plants lots of soil to work with, they will not dry out as much as if they were root bound. Also, plants seem to grow more rapidly in the summer.

Reduce the amount of fertilizer that you use. Plants will suffer more easily from fertilizer burn if they dry out, which will happen if the room is too warm.

## Vacation Time

As much as I like my violets, I like to travel more. There are several things you can do when you go on a vacation, but you **MUST** plan ahead.

First, figure out how many days you are going to be gone. Be sure to count the day that you leave and the day that you come home, unless you plan on watering those days.

How long can the plants go without watering? Obviously, one that has been recently planted will not dry out as quickly as one that is all roots with very little soil. One thing that has worked for me is to put newly planted minis from leaves in a very tight plastic box. They will keep nicely for over a month. Also, if plants are wicked, they will last longer than mat watering. The size of your reservoir and the size of the plant can make a difference on how long they last without you. You, and only you, will know how long they last before drying out. If you change methods of watering your plants, be sure to do it a long time before you leave on your trip (at least a month).

Hire a plant sitter. This would be an ideal thing to do, and some of our members have called upon fellow members to help them. Be sure to give them "simple directions." Most people are not as careful when measuring fertilizers as we are. Also, most people tend to overwater.

Keep your environment the same when you are gone. Keep the air conditioner on. It costs a lot of money, but to lose a collection of plants that you have been growing for a year or more could be an unhappy scene to come home to.

Water thoroughly before you leave. A few days before, water and check each and every plant. Somehow, I always seem to miss a plant because when I come home one of them is gasping for a drink! It's good if you have the time to remove blossoms, and do a little grooming, too. They will look better when you come home if you do this.

Stay cool.

*From The "Violetter", publication of the  
North Star AV Council*

# Propagating Suckers

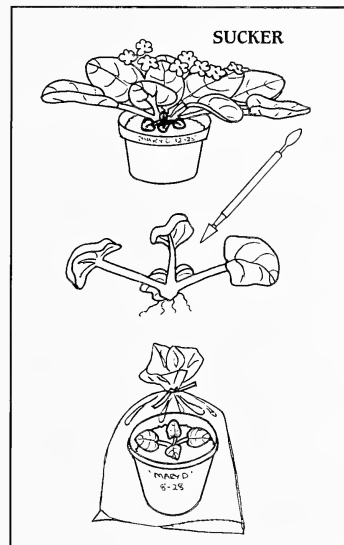
While excessive suckering can be the result of poor culture, damage, or disease, some suckering is to be expected when plants are constantly pushed to their peak of growth and flowering. Take advantage of an occasional sucker by allowing it to become large enough to propagate. The sucker should have four leaves and measure about 1 1/2" (either tall or across). Don't allow suckers to become so large that they spoil the symmetry of the parent plant.

There are advantages to propagating from suckers. You will have a plant much sooner than by putting down a leaf, and plants propagated this way are almost certain to come true to the parent plant. In the case of chimeras, it is the only way for the hobbyist to get a true reproduction.

1. Use a Sucker Plucker (or similar tool) to remove suckers intact from the plant. Suckers that form at the base of the main stem at the soil line usually are rooted in the soil. Slip the triangular end of the tool between sucker and the main stem. Cut straight down until the sucker separates. Then, loosen the roots from the soil. By leaving a few roots attached, growth will be much more rapid.
2. Write the plant name and the date on the pot and fill it with moist leaf start mix. Press the mix down firmly, and water with fertilizer solution. Make a shallow trough in the top of the mix, and lay the sucker in this indentation. Push the sucker down gently so it makes good contact with the mix but not so deeply that the center is buried.
3. Place the pot in a plastic bag, expand the bag slightly by blowing into it, twist the top shut, and secure with a wire twist. Leave the bag closed for two or three weeks. Open and loosen the top of the bag for another two weeks, then remove the bag. Be sure to water the plant during the two week open-bag period. When the plant is large enough, pot it into a 4" pot.

Removing a sucker intact that has formed in the axil of a petiole requires some delicate surgery. One slip and a major leaf can be severed. Again, using the triangular end, make partial cuts all around the base of the sucker. Cut carefully between the sucker and petiole and between the sucker and main stem until it is loose. If the sucker is small enough, it may pop out of the axil by pushing at the base of it with a pencil. To encourage root formation, brush rooting powder on the cut end of the sucker.

*From Growing to Show*



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# Registration Report



**Iris Keating**  
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Claremont, CA 91711

## Ruth Bann – Fridley, MN

\***Rebel's Bright Dawning** (9077) 12/3/01 (R. Bann) Semidouble-double pink large ruffled star/darker edge. **Variegated** dark green and cream, plain, quilted, glossy/red back. **Standard**

\***Rebel's Dahlonge** (9078) 12/3/01 (R. Bann) Single-semidouble pink large ruffled pansy/red-spattered band, white edge. **Variegated** dark green and beige, plain, quilted, glossy/red back. **Standard**

\***Rebel's Flashy Butterfly** (9079) 12/3/01 (R. Bann) Single-semidouble pink large pansy/cerise fantasy band, thin white edge. **Variegated** dark green and cream, heart-shaped, quilted, glossy/red back. **Large**

\***Rebel's Kidopink** (9080) 12/3/01 (R. Bann) Semidouble pink large ruffled pansy/darker edge. **Variegated** medium green and beige, pointed, quilted, glossy/red back. **Standard**

\***Rebel's Ky-Oh** (9081) 12/3/01 (R. Bann) Semidouble pink large frilled star/red sparkle overlay. **Variegated** medium green, tan and pink, plain, quilted, glossy/red back. **Standard**

\***Rebel's Maria** (9082) 12/3/01 (R. Bann) Semidouble-double pink two-tone large ruffled pansy. **Variegated** dark green and beige, plain, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. **Standard**

\***Rebel's Peppermint** (9083) 12/3/01 (R. Bann) Semidouble pink large ruffled pansy/cerise band, thin white edge. **Variegated** medium green and white, heart-shaped, quilted, glossy. **Standard**

\***Rebel's Restless Heart** (9084) 12/3/01 (R. Bann) Double red-violet two-tone large ruffled star. **Variegated** medium green and ivory, plain, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. **Standard**

\***Rebel's Strawberry Bites** (9085) 12/3/01 (R. Bann) Semidouble bright pink two-tone large star/white ruffled edge. Dark green, spooned, quilted, glossy, scalloped/red back. **Standard**

A name reservation costs \$1.00 and is valid for two years, after which time it may be extended two years for an additional \$1.00. Registration of the plant is \$5.00 unless completed within the reservation period, in which case the balance is then \$4.00. Please make check payable to AVSA.

\***Rebel's Teddy Bear** (9086) 12/3/01 (R. Bann) Semidouble mauve star/darker-tipped top petals. **Variegated** dark green and beige, plain, quilted, glossy/red back. **Standard**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Fay Wagman – Pittsford, NY

\***Rob's Cookie Crumble** (9087) 1/2/02 (F. Wagman/R. Robinson) Single chimera white sticktite pansy/dark blue stripe. Dark green, plain. **Semiminature**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Barbara Werness – Coon Rapids, MN

\***Sora Christine** (9088) 1/9/02 (B. Werness) Semidouble-double orchid large star. **Variegated** dark green, pink and cream, serrated/red back. **Large**

\***Sora Munchie** (9089) 1/9/02 (B. Werness) Semidouble fuchsia frilled pansy/darker top petals, white edge. Dark green, heart-shaped, glossy/red back. **Standard**

\***Sora Patty Ann** (9090) 1/9/02 (B. Werness) Semidouble chimera bright pink pansy/white stripe, purple fantasy. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

\*\*\*\*\*

## David Thompson – Waterloo, IA

\***Coral Dreams** (9091) 1/12/02 (D. Thompson) Single dark coral sticktite pansy/white ruffled edge. Medium green, pointed, quilted, scalloped. **Standard**

\***Exotic Star** (9092) 1/12/02 (D. Thompson) Single chimera white sticktite frilled star/purple stripe. Medium green, plain, quilted, wavy, scalloped. **Standard**

\***Patchwork** (9093) 1/12/02 (D. Thompson) Semidouble white ruffled star/blue patches. Medium green, plain, quilted, scalloped. **Standard**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Linda Stickney – Maroa, IL

\***Prairie Lady** (9094) 1/22/02 (L. Stickney) Double medium

pink pansy. Light green girl foliage. **Standard**

\***Prairie Moonbeam** (9095) 1/22/02 (L. Stickney) Single white pansy/variable blue-flecked eye. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

\***Prairie Pixie** (9096) 1/22/02 (L. Stickney) Semidouble light pink star/lavender shading. Medium green, quilted. **Semiminature trailer**

\***Prairie Song** (9097) 1/22/02 (L. Stickney) Semidouble medium pink ruffled pansy/darker eye. Dark green, plain. **Standard**

\***Prairie Sinkhole** (9098) 1/22/02 (L. Stickney) Single medium blue cupped. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

\***Prairie Starlight** (9099) 1/22/02 (L. Stickney) Semidouble white ruffled pansy. Medium green, plain. **Standard**

\***Prairie Wagon Wheel** (9100) 1/22/02 (L. Stickney) Single white ruffled pansy/medium blue eye, edge. Dark green, plain. **Standard**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Barbara Werness – Coon Rapids, MN**

\***Sora Addison Rose** (9101) 1/31/02 (B. Werness) Single-semidouble dark pink two-tone large star/raspberry band, thin white edge. Dark green, round/red back. **Standard**

\***Sora Fuzzy Face** (9102) 1/31/02 (B. Werness/R. Bann) Double lavender two-tone pansy/green markings. **Variegated** medium green and white, pointed, quilted, glossy. **Standard**

#### REGISTRATION CHANGE

At the hybridizer's request, the following foliage description change has been made:

**Allegro Lyric** (8859) **Light green, serrated.**

## FUNGUS

Root rot, crown rot, leaf rot, damping off, gray mold, and related diseases.

*What to look for:* Some types of fungus resemble that of cyclamen mite damage. For instance, Pythium fungus affects roots and root damage then results in a gray, stunted appearance of the crown, and finally the collapse of the entire plant. At first, crown rot also resembles cyclamen mite damage. However, as both of these fungi progress, the center leaves will be soft instead of turgid and eventually the crown turns brown and rots away. Botrytis forms a cottony-web in the crown of the plant. The first signs of leaf rot is when outer leaves and petioles become light gray and finally a translucent brown with a jelly-like consistency. Damping-off causes leaf cuttings or small seedlings or plantlets to suddenly wilt and collapse.

*How to prevent it:* The best approach is to alter adverse environmental conditions and improper cultural procedures. Healthy, vigorous plants grown under controlled conditions resist fungus attacks. Provide a growing area where a moderate temperature range and good ventilation can be maintained. You may have to invest in a needed piece of equipment such as a fan, air conditioner, or dehumidifier.

Fungi thrive where the soil has poor aeration, is of a greater depth than the roots can utilize, and is kept too wet.

Texas-Style Potting can create ideal conditions for resistance to fungi. There is aeration in the perlite layer and in the porous potting mix; thus soil moisture is controlled.

It may seem contradictory, but allowing plants to become too dry can also set them up for a fungus attack (most commonly crown rot). Many of the fine feeder roots die; thus, when proper watering is resumed, the uptake of water is severely restricted and overwetness of the soil results.

Keep light stand trays free of dead blossoms, soil particles, and mold. If algae or mold forms on the tray carpeting, wet it down with a diluted bleach solution (one teaspoon to one gallon of water). Be careful not to splash the solution on the foliage. Remove spent blossoms. Dip tools in the diluted bleach solution before working on the next plant.

Scrub used pots thoroughly in detergent. If there are fungus problems in your area, take additional precautions. Wipe down all trays and work areas and soak pots in a diluted bleach solution. Use about twenty parts water to one part bleach. Mix up a fresh solution each time since the chlorine content of the solution dissipates in about four hours.

*From Growing to Show*

## LABEL, LABEL, LABEL

Label your plants consistently. You can buy Avery® labels in various sizes or use masking tape. Use indelible ink and stick the label to the side of the pot. Insert labels can be switched or removed easily. The story of the grandchild who switched a whole tray of inserted labels on small non-blooming plants makes a good point! Inserted labels detract from the beauty of the plants and can distort leaves and symmetry of the plant.

Dates are very useful. If you started the plant from a leaf, put 'L-date' on the label followed by the date it was last

reotted. Date of repotting is essential if you have more than two violets! Use a system and be consistent.

Printed information labels should be attached to all leaves for sale. It would be helpful to include these labels for non-blooming plants. These labels should increase leaf and small plant sales at meetings and show/sale.

IDENTIFY!

*From "The Bloomin" Violet,  
publication of the Cedar Valley AVC*

# How I Grow My African Violets

by John Gay

No one plant gets any special treatment over the next one. Although the treatment can be exactly the same, I think that they are like our siblings; individuals, and irritatingly different. Some babies off the same leaf can present themselves nice and symmetrically, while one or two may have very wavy leaves etc, and not have show potential at all.

## SELECTING A PLANT TO SHOW:

Any African violet plant can be described as beautiful, but if we hope to show a plant to its optimum there are a few criteria to look for. Plants at a show are not only judged on flowers, the symmetry awards you with nearly as many points. So, basically, don't just look at the flowers on a plant, study also the foliage and how flat it sits, with the leaves toward the center of the plant nicely overlapping.

One of the simplest ways to select a show plant is to study the results of plants at various shows that have won awards, particularly if there are a lot of entries.

Should we have a plant with good symmetry, another consideration besides that plant having attractive flowers is the number of flowers on the stem. If you have seven or eight flowers on a stem you are not going to have the same display on your plant as if you have twelve to fifteen flowers on each stem. Two plants taken at random when broken down after a show were 'Colonial Oodnadatta' and 'Phantom Flash', each having approximately 300 flowers on them (twelve to thirteen stems and up to thirty flowers on a stem).

## STARTING YOUR PLANTS:

Plantlets are either started by side shoots (suckers) or babies from a leaf. Leaves are placed in potting mix with the leaf stem or petiole 1/2" to 3/4" long, and set with the leaf blade resting on top of the mix. No fertilizer needs to be given at this stage. When the babies are 1/4" the mother leaf is cut off and extremely weak fertilizer is started. At 1 1/2" to 2" high they can be carefully separated and each plant put in a small square or round pot (1"-2" in size).

At this stage a number of roots can be broken off, and I like to trim (with scissors preferably) the leaves off so that the small plantlet is fairly uniform. The longer the babies are left before dividing, the more out of shape they may become.

The nitrogenous fertilizer can now be increased to 1/8th strength. When I have potted out the babies, I usually put

them in trays and water them underneath (each pot, including leaves, is wicked). As the small plants grow and extend over the plants around them, they are taken out of the trays and put on to individual reservoirs.

As the starter plants grow, it is necessary to keep an eye on the inside leaves and see that they are growing over the second row of leaves from the center of the plant.

Disbud all the time, unless you leave one stem of buds to come up and check to see that the plant is going to flower according to its description, then take it off.

Another point to watch as the small plant grows out is that the outside leaves grow over the edge of the pot, and not into the side of the pot. Should this be the case, put an insertable plant label under the leaves and over the edge of the pot so the particular leaf will then grow over the side of the pot uninterrupted. If the leaf gets a bend in it, and it stays in that position for any length of time, you will find the leaf won't straighten again.

When the starter plant has grown, and is two thirds bigger than the diameter of the pot, it is time to pot it on.

For show purposes, I feel that it is better to put it into a small florist's bowl with holes in the bottom. But, if the edge around the rim is sharp, use a knife and remove the sharp edge, otherwise as the leaf grows out over the rim you may find the leaf will be cut and will break, ruining the symmetry of the plant. The wider diameter bowl will help support the leaves, particularly as they grow out and get bigger and heavier. I have found that a collar under the leaves is sometimes a good idea, because the leaves start to sag with their weight.

This should be the final potting on; however, sideshoots and flower buds will need to be removed until eight to ten weeks before the show. Small leaves also should be removed, particularly if there is a row of them around under the plant. If there is only one or two, which fill in gaps, leave them there so your plant has the appearance of a complete rosette.

Twelve weeks prior to the show, begin using a flower booster and start increasing the light hours. They can be increased up to sixteen hours per day, but do it gradually.

Good luck with your show plants, and I hope these notes will help you.

*From the Newsletter of the Early Morn AV Group*

# What's In A Name?

by Barb Pershing  
Cedar Falls, IA

Identity! How many of you have a favorite violet given to you by Grandma Ethel or Aunt Mary and it has thrived? You have started babies from leaves or suckers and have given them to Cousin Sue and Jane next door and ... with no particular identity other than perhaps one you gave it such as "purple arrow leaf" or "Mom's double white". These plants bring back many memories and much enjoyment. Beginners are usually happy to receive any or all leaves and plants offered to help them get started. They don't think of much more than "will it grow for me?" and "what color is the blossom?"

And then, you begin to get serious about growing violets. You become a "hobbyist," and want to take your favorite "no-name" to the club meeting or a show, where you find that it does not have an "identity." Eventually, you begin to recognize names of favorite violets. You'll start to obtain catalogs from African violet growers and the names (identity) and descriptions begin to take on a new meaning. People who have been collecting and growing violets for years already know the importance of names. Only registered violets and named cultivars can be entered at AVSA shows.

The registered name given to an African violet is an identity by which a particular cultivar will be known to anyone who has seen it or read about it, for as long as a single plant remains in the possession of even one grower. The description of a named cultivar tells leaf form and color, blossom color and type, and size of mature plant. This information is available in

the Master Variety List (MVL) available from AVSA. A yearly list of new cultivars is published in the September AVSA magazine each year. The MVL also gives a registration number and name of the hybridizer for over 8000 African violets. The first 680 are violets registered from 1949-1953 and are alphabetized from MVL# 1 'African Queen' to #680 'Zulu Queen'.

AVSA offers a computer software database available for \$25. It is possible to search and retrieve plant descriptions and is interesting to play detective with some "no-name oldies." I have been able to identify two "oldies" using this computer software. I knew the vintage of both. My mother had them when I was married (40 years ago!) so I used this information. Both my 'White Madonna' (MVL#670) and 'Blue Angel' (MVL#37) came to the top of the list when I gave descriptions. 'Blue Angel' is the only "semi-double medium blue dark green pointed quilted leaf" in the entire MVL! 'White Madonna' is the only "double white girl leaf" in the first 680 registered violets.

It would not be possible to pin-point all violets so easily. My single pink or double purple for example, would be difficult because there are several that might fit that description. I have one "oldie" that brought over 100 "hits" and another that could be any one of ten or so.

*From "The Bloomin' Violet",  
publication of the Cedar Valley Violet Club*



## Mold Potting

When potting up (going to the next size pot), this technique works so well:

Take your clean pot, wick, mix, and a pot the same size as the one the plant is potted in at the moment.

Thread the wick up through the drainage hole, leaving sufficient outside to reach to the bottom of your water container.

Put soil in the bottom of the larger pot - just enough to cover the base, and make sure the wick is poking up into the mix.

Place the pot the same size as the one the plant is in inside the larger-sized pot. Put moist soil in between the two pots up to the level where you want the plant to be, lightly dampen

the soil so it will hold its shape, slightly turn/twist the smaller pot, and carefully remove it.

Remove the plant from its pot, leaving the soil ball intact.

Put the plant to be transplanted into the hole where the empty pot was. If the pots were the same size and shape, it will be a perfect fit. The plant won't even know it has been repotted. No root damage or exposure! There's probably a name for this technique, but whatever it is, if you haven't tried this, do so next time - it really works beautifully.

*From the African Violet News*

# Texas Style Potting

by Cheryl Salatino

Texas-Style potting grew out of a need to understand how African violets grew in their natural environment. These plants were usually found in a shallow layer of growing material with a rocky layer underneath. The roots grew down into the rocky layer, kept moist by frequent rains washing through. Like conditions were applied to potting methods and introduced to African violet growers by Jodi Davis of Austin, Texas.

Promoted by Pauline Bartholomew in her book, Growing To Show, the Texas-Style is great for African violets. Ms. Bartholomew provides us with much advice and simple guidelines in potting and watering plants using this method.

For each individual pot, you will place a layer of perlite on the bottom followed by a layer of soil mixture on top (see table below). A saucer is placed under the pot as the source for water. This method will assist in mastering the right amount of water required by the plant.

## Texas Style Guidelines:

Pot size	Perlite layer	Soil layer	Free space at top of pot	Water depth in saucer	Watering frequency
2 1/2"	1/2"	1 1/2"	1/4"	variable	3-4 days
3"	3/4"	1 3/4"	1/2"	1/4" - 1/2"	3-4 days
3 1/2"	3/4"	1 3/4"	1/2"	1/4" - 1/2"	4-5 days
4"	1"	1 3/4"	3/4"	1/4" - 1/2"	4-5 days
Oyama	1 3/4"	2"	3/4"	Line 1 or 2 on outer pot	5-6 days

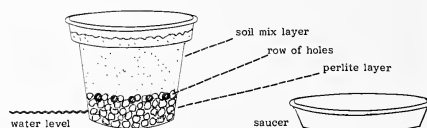
Texas-Style does not require a special type of pot, although there are some planters that are designed to take advantage of this method. If you decide to use standard tub pots, you must punch 1/4" holes around the pot at the top of the perlite layer for ventilation at approximately 1/2 to 1" intervals. The holes provide aeration to help the capillary action.

Be aware that each time the plant is watered, a recom-

mended amount is placed in the saucer (see table above). A diluted fertilizer solution is recommended since the plant is taking up a constant supply of water. This should be approximately 1/2 of the fertilizer used in a continuous feed program. If the saucer being used is flat, punch a few additional holes in the pot at the water level to ensure that the fluid will be taken up. A flat saucer can cause a vacuum.

The only other condition to note is the weather. Your watering schedule may alter a day or two due to the weather or the conditions in your growing area.

TEXAS-STYLE POTTING METHOD



## Oyama Planters:

Often people refer to Oyama planters as Texas pots. These are two-piece pots - the outer pot serves as the watering source and the inner pot is for planting. Since the outer pot helps retain moisture and humidity, the watering intervals are longer than using tub pots. Vendors selling African Violet supplies usually carry Oyama planters. You can find even more information about Texas-Style potting and Oyama planters in Pauline Bartholomew's book.

**Editors Note:** For more information on Oyama Planters see Beverly's Violets & Gifts ad on page 64.

From *Ye Bay Stater*, publication of the Bay State AVS, and *Growing to Show*

## ATTENTION AFFILIATE CLUBS

**Beginning June 1, 2002, ALL Library Slide and Video Reservations MUST be made in WRITING - either by FAX (409.839.4329),**

**Email [avsa@earthlink.net](mailto:avsa@earthlink.net), or Postal Delivery to:**

**AVSA Library, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702**



# Shows and Judges



**Bill Foster**  
*Shows and Judges Committee*  
3610 Gray Drive  
Mesquite, TX 75150  
*email: bpfoster@airmail.net*

I am looking forward to seeing and visiting with many of you very soon in Washington, D.C. If you are a student judge or an AVSA member, perhaps you would like to serve as a clerk for the convention show. Even if you failed to send in the coupon in advance, just contact me after you arrive. The judges will already be assigned, but we are almost always short on clerks.

The previous column was filled with questions from the fall shows. I am sure that questions concerning spring shows will have arrived by the time this goes to press. Those questions will be combined with the questions from the Judges' Breakfast and will appear in the September/October African Violet Magazine.

I would like to remind those judges who are renewing their senior certificates, or those who are applying for the first

time, to request their exams early and return them early. The earlier all the exams are returned, the earlier you will receive the results. No exams are returned until all have been graded, so if you do not send your exam until the deadline, everyone must wait for your exam to be processed before they can receive the results of their exams. Now, you don't want that on your conscience, do you?

We will also be working hard to update the judges' list for the September/October African Violet Magazine. A lot of clubs do not meet in the summer, and people tend to be a little lax in renewing their AVSA membership. Remember, if you have not renewed your membership, your name will be omitted from the list.

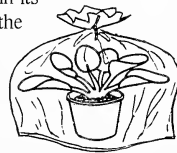
If you just absolutely cannot make it to Washington, D.C., start saving right now so you can go to Baton Rouge in 2003!

## TIPS FROM TEXAS

- When you mist your plant foliage, fill your misting bottle with hot water. When you spray your plants, hold the mister at least eight inches away from your foliage. By the time the mist reaches the leaves, the water will have cooled. Never place your plant back in direct sunlight before the leaves dry and use a paper towel to dry the crown area.
- When spraying for insects, be careful to hold the aerosol can at least twelve inches away from the plant because the propellant is very cold and can damage the leaves.
- Leaf drop is not usually caused by disease but by cultural conditions. Gas fumes or over-watering with cold water can both cause the condition.
- Crown rot and root rot are both caused by a fungus and a plant with a wet root ball is at risk. The plant will wilt, and the first thought is that the plant is dry, but watering is the worse thing that can be done. If you don't have a meter to check moisture, stick a pencil down into the soil. Avoid hitting the root ball. If soil sticks to the pencil, it is damp; if nothing sticks to the pencil, the soil is dry. You can also determine the need for water by lifting the pot. One grower suggests watering the plant and allowing it

to drain. Lift the pot to get the feel of a "wet pot". Later, compare this weight to the pot after it has dried. You can feel the difference.

- Do you have an intensive care unit set up for your African violets? A critical care unit will help your plants recover from surgery or repotting stress. Set aside an area on your light stand or a table where stressed plants can be tented with a plastic bag for a week or more while they get their strength back. Many times when you repot, you groom your plant by removing old stems and leaves, trim the root ball and you might even cut the crown off to rid the plant of a long neck. Each of these actions causes stress to the plant. And stress needs action from you. A week away from the other plants in its own "oxygen" tent may be just the thing to give your plant that boost it needs to snap back. Just adding humidity inside a plastic bag or tent, and your plant will look and feel like a new plant again.



*From the Newsletter of the Victoria AVS, Texas*

# Soil Mealybugs

by Dr. Charles Cole

About twenty-nine species of soil mealybugs are found in the U.S. At least two, and perhaps four or more, will feed on African violets. The species in this group are very difficult to distinguish one from another. Two species positively identified from African violets are: the Root mealybug, *Rhizococcus americanus* and the Pritchard mealybug, *R. pritchardii*. Although the most commonly occurring species appears to be the Pritchard mealybug, only an extensive survey can determine this.

## Description and Identification

Soil mealybugs are small, oval-elongated insects that live among the roots of plants. They range in size from 1-4 mm in length (the wire from which a medium size paper clip is made is about 1 mm in diameter). Soil mealybugs are completely covered with a powdery wax, which is secreted from glands in the mealybug's body. This waxy material makes them appear snow-white. These insects have piercing-sucking mouthparts. They insert their mouthparts into plant tissue and feed on plant juice. Mealybugs move very slowly and are often reluctant to move even when prodded.

## Life History and Habits

In spite of the importance of these pests on African violets and other ornamental plants, very little information is available on their life history and habits. Information which does exist generally pertains to the Pritchard mealybug.

Some mealybugs lay eggs and some give birth to living young. This differs among the species, and perhaps with the geographical location, time of year, and methods under which their host plants are cultured. In 1965, Robert Snetsinger reported that most Pritchard mealybugs in Pennsylvania gave birth to living young and that very few eggs were laid. All observations in Texas over the past 10 years have shown egg-laying females and no indication of females giving birth to living young.

Pritchard mealybug eggs are oval and glassy-white. They are laid in groups of ten to twenty and are surrounded by a mass of waxy filaments. They appear as a minute "cottony" ball. The eggs hatch in about one to two days, and the young disperse throughout the root ball and begin to feed. A life cycle is completed in from two to four months. Reproduction is continuous in the home or greenhouse, and several overlapping generations may occur on African violets in a single year. All life stages may be found on a plant at the same time.

The white waxy powder produced by these pests may be found throughout the root ball, on pots, or floating in water reservoirs.

## Nature of Damage

Though small they may be, soil mealybugs are capable of

inflicting severe damage to African violets. Damage results when adults and nymphs insert their mouthparts into tiny roots and take juices from the plant. In the process of feeding, small roots are damaged. Under heavy populations, large numbers of roots are destroyed. When the root ball is examined, you will find few, if any, functional root hairs. The roots of heavily damaged plants will not be clear and white but will appear brownish and may have decayed areas on them. Plants infested with soil mealybugs are often weakened, making them more susceptible to invasion by fungi and other disease organisms.

## Symptoms of Infestation

A plant may tolerate small to moderate numbers of soil mealybugs for a year or more and show no visible symptoms. That is, as long as the plant is receiving all the care it needs; plenty of water, proper fertilization, the right temperature, and the correct amount of light. If infested plants are subjected to stress, such as the lack of water or fertilizer, then symptoms of a mealybug infestation will surface. This often occurs when a grower is very busy for a period of time or takes a vacation and cannot administer the usual care. Healthy plants will usually not be affected by a bit of neglect, but infested plants show stress quickly. Due to their small size and secretive nature, infestations of soil mealybugs often go unnoticed, and when symptoms appear, they are often attributed to some other cause.

The first visible symptom of soil mealybugs is expressed as moisture stress. As the pests take plant juices, the plant cannot take up water fast enough to compensate. Infested plants may appear dull and lack luster. Leaves may appear slightly limp even when the soil has adequate moisture. Prolonged infestations will cause the outer leaves to turn yellow. Blossoms on infested plants may be smaller and fewer in number.

As the number of mealybugs increase on a plant, there may be a general decline in its condition with wilting and yellowing of the outer leaves occurring rapidly. If such plants are neglected, they may die.

Long before plants begin to show symptoms, infestations may be detected by observing the pests or the white waxy material they produce in the root ball, on the pot, or floating in water reservoirs.

## Infestation and Spread

Soil mealybug infestations may be contracted and spread in several ways. Sooner or later, everyone culturing violets will be introduced to this minute pest.

Soil mealybugs are present naturally in the soil around the roots of their native host plants. They are commonly found in both commercial and hobby cultures of African violets and

many other house plants. Most frequently, infestations are started when infested plants are introduced into a collection. These pests may also be transported on a person's hands, clothing, or on contaminated equipment. As they are picked up from handling infested plants, they are easily transferred to healthy plants in like manner.

Once a collection is infested, months may pass before the population increases to large enough numbers to be detected. During this time, the infestation may remain in a very small area, even in a single pot. However, infestations may spread throughout a plant collection. This spread may take place by natural dispersal as mealybugs crawl about. They may be spread as plants are moved from one place to another. They may be spread on contaminated hands, clothing, or equipment. Commonly, infestations are spread when the pests are washed through the soil, out drain holes, and float to new locations where they take up residence in new plants.

### Prevention and Cultural Control

Certain cultural practices play an important role in preventing or controlling soil mealybug infestations. Every grower should review their practices periodically and make adjustments if needed.

**Inspection and Isolation** of newly acquired plants is a very good practice. Infested plants should be isolated and treated before they are introduced into a collection. Even though soil mealybugs are not found during inspection, plants can be isolated for a period of 60-90 days. A thorough inspection following isolation will, in most instances, allow a plant to be certified "clean and free of pests".

**Sanitation** is very important. Good sanitary practices enhance soil mealybug control and may help prevent recurrent infestations. Weak plants should be removed from the collection and isolated or destroyed. Infested plants should be removed and treated promptly. Leaves, stems, old blossoms, or other debris should not be allowed to accumulate on benches, shelves, or on the greenhouse or garden room floor. Pots containing used soil and plant roots should be removed and destroyed. These are often neglected and can be a source of buildup and spread of infestations. All tools and equipment should be kept clean and free of soil and plant debris.

**Watering** techniques play an important role in the spread of soil mealybugs. Community watering reservoirs and capillary mats, as well as flooding benches spread soil mealybugs rapidly. These are all good and effective methods of watering plants. They save much time and labor and should be used where applicable. However, when these methods are used, frequent inspection of pads, water, benches and plants should be made for signs of mealybugs or their waxy secretions.

### Chemical Control

Soil mealybugs are not hard to kill. Several insecticides are very effective on mealybugs. However, killing mealybugs and controlling an infestation are two different things. If infestations are to be controlled, growers must be familiar with the life history and habits of the pest. They must use an effective

pesticide, and employ the proper treatment techniques.

The techniques used when treating for soil mealybugs are extremely important. Once a grower is familiar with the facts involved they can develop a technique, which is more likely to give the desired control.

For best results, plants should be treated when not too wet or too dry. The soil should be free of excess moisture but still slightly moist to the touch.

Plants to be treated should be placed in a container which will hold water such as a pot, tub, or tray. A drench should be applied from the top with the soil surface and crown of the plant thoroughly covered. Enough solution should be applied so that excess will drain into the container below. Plants should be left standing in the excess solution for two to four hours. This allows the plant to soak up the solution, wet any dry areas, and eliminate air pockets that might remain in the root ball. Plants should be drained for 24-36 hours and then returned to their normal cultural care.

Plants being "wick" watered or plants on capillary mats should be allowed to dry to the desired moisture level prior to treatment. Also, they should be held for 24-36 hours after treatment before they are returned to their automatic watering system. This prevents a dilution of the insecticide and gives it time to kill the mealybugs.

When soil mealybug infestations are heavy and have spread throughout a collection, additional action must be taken to assure control. In this situation, a premise treatment needs to be applied. All containers, floral carts, shelves, greenhouse benches, and other equipment should be treated with an approved insecticide. Heavily infested capillary mats should be treated, sterilized, or destroyed.

Soil mealybugs need live roots upon which to live. Mealybugs can exist for months in old used soil containing live roots. If potting soil is to be reused, it must be sterilized by steam or other methods. Good sterile potting soil or peat that has no living roots in it is not a likely source of mealybug infestations.

### Recurrence of Infestations

After an infestation of soil mealybugs has been controlled, there may, after a period of time, be a recurrence of the infestation. This may be due to the reintroduction of the pest into the culture, as discussed already, or it may be due to the resurgence of a residual population left after treatment. The frequency and time interval between treatment and population resurgence will depend upon the degree of control attained by treatment, the prevalent environmental conditions, and the cultural practices used in the violet culture.

We should not fear infestations of soil mealybugs. Nor should we panic when we discover an infestation in our culture. Infestations can be controlled effectively once we understand this pest and its habits. When we learn to detect an infestation early, frequent inspection of your violets will head off many infestations before they are well established.

From *Insect and Mite Pests of African Violets*

# Thinking Small



**Pat Richards**

15105 S. Seminole Drive  
Olathe, KS 66062-3004  
email: [Patter257@aol.com](mailto:Patter257@aol.com)

## PLANTS ARE LIKE PEOPLE

We all like to eat. We all have preferences as to what we eat. Sometimes our preference is not what is nutritionally best for us. And we all know someone who can "eat anything" and get away with it, and others who are living proof of "once past the lips forever on the hips". Believe it or not, I contend African violets are the same as people.

Homo sapiens must have fats, protein, carbohydrates, and specific vitamins to survive. *Saintpaulia ionantha* must have nitrogen, potassium, phosphorous, and certain minerals to survive. Water and oxygen are essential to the survival of both. If any "essential" element is missing, it will be evidenced by slow or poor growth, generally termed a "failure to thrive". There will be a lackluster appearance, perhaps even showing outward appearances. There may be an onset of disease and a general lack of resistance to external pathogens. In general, growth will be weak, energy low, and performance poor.

## GETTING THE PROPORTIONS RIGHT

Too much fat in humans results in obesity and other undetected conditions such as clogged arteries. Too much protein can destroy kidney function. Too many carbohydrates results in obesity and can throw blood sugar off. Moderation is key in the human diet.

Our African violets are the same. A "lawn food" diet, high in nitrogen, would result in fast, weak growth and poor blooming. A "seedling" diet, high in phosphorous, might bring on copious boom, but over a long period of time would result in weak, spindly growth in foliage insufficient to sustain overall plant growth. A diet high in potassium would have certain short-lived benefits, but could not sustain the energy necessary for healthy, vigorous plant growth and blooming. Balance, here the proper balance of nutrients, is critical to the performance and ultimately, the enjoyment of African violets.

## N-P-K

A *Saintpaulia* should be a blooming plant. Some may be attractive without blooms, but to be truly spectacular (and to play a bit with Shakespeare), "the bloom's the thing"! The ele-

ment responsible for good bloom production is phosphorous (P), the middle number in fertilizer formulations. To produce blooms well, nitrogen (N), the first number, is essential for the production of exceptional foliage which provides the plant the energy it needs to produce those blooms. Potassium (K) is necessary for overall plant health; its effect is generally a moderating one.

Individuals who grow for show understand the importance of providing their plant with the framework necessary for a superior plant. This framework is the foliage: a perfect pinwheel of neatly layered, undamaged, pristine leaves. They may be light, emerald, dark green, or variegated subtly or vividly of pink, white, yellow, etc. The foliage may be tailored, scalloped, ruffled, or even girl foliage. Regardless of the type of foliage, however, it must be healthy, brilliant, and glistening with vigor. This is primarily accomplished through nitrogen. Thus, fertilizer formulations must carry a good amount of this element.

Once the framework has been established, the masterpiece is next: a glorious bouquet of flowers, derived from healthy, vigorous growth, and an adequate supply of phosphorous. It is because the African violet is known for its glorious bloom that most formulations have equal amounts of, if not two to three times as much, phosphorous as nitrogen. Phosphorous deals with cell division, and thus, the reproductive portions of the plant. It also contributes to the overall health and vigor of the plant.

The final component, potassium, delivered as potash, also addresses overall plant health and vigor. Its contributions are not as obvious as nitrogen or potassium, but is equally necessary.

## THE NUMBERS GAME

To select the best fertilizer for your miniature and semi-miniature African violets, simply look at the numbers and understand what we're trying to accomplish. In essence, the role of nitrogen is less important with minis and semis than with standards. It is used in the role of photosynthesis and to maintain overall plant vigor, but it's not to build large, lush, extraordinary foliage. We do want nice foliage, but it's simply

not as important as with the large standards which are capable of producing layer upon layer of well-grown leaves. Instead, in order to remain small and look their naturally diminutive size, miniatures and semiminiatures can and often must display fewer layers of leaves. In all honesty, there are very few varieties which look appropriate with many multiple layers, and which can stay in size at the same time, and when they do they are absolutely astounding, truly appearing to be "miniature" standards in all their glory! Such a plant deserves to be recognized for the skill of the grower.

Blooms, vis-a-vis cell reproduction, however, are just as important to minis and semis as standards. Thus, fertilizers with abundant amounts of phosphorous, at least double, if not triple the amount of nitrogen, are desirable for minis and semis. Potassium, because of its inexact nature, parrots the nitrogen levels in most formulations.

**Bottom line:** the perfect formulation for minis and semis would be 15-30-15, 12-36-14, or anything with a 1:2:1 or 1:3:1 ratio. This holds true during the entire growing year, regardless of shows, temperature, etc. In other words, there is no need for bloom boosting when these types of formulations are being used, as the mini/semi has adequate supplies of phosphorous available to it at all times.

#### EXCESS PUCKY

Now that the "perfect" fertilizer formulation for minis and semis has been determined, we can discuss the concept of "excess pucky", or additives that provide extra nutrition to our plants. This includes additives in the soil, such as blood meal, bone meal, greensand, etc., additives in the water, such as Superthrive, fish emulsion, etc., or additives via air, such as foliar sprays. Please remember, these additives are ONLY to be

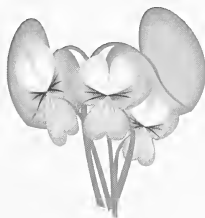
used in addition to a regular fertilizing program, NOT as a substitute for them.

All additives should be handled in small quantities, as excess amounts can cause damage to the plant's foliage, roots, or blooms. Many of them have a dehydrating effect, or can cause other nutritional imbalances, particularly if followed over a long period of time, so be very cautious and pay close attention to what your plants are telling you. Begin experimenting on a few plants, and if you notice a positive difference, expand the application to more of your collection. If the difference is negligible or negative, at least your entire collection will not have suffered. Further, I will repeat, additives are not as necessary with the minis and semis as the standards, because of their diminutive size. Thus, the best additives would be those which would add to overall plant vigor and/or bloom as opposed to boosting foliage performance.

A personal story: in the early 1990's, I used a particular soil formulation called "Earl's Mix" (after Earl Jackson, a dear, departed club member). You had to buy close to \$100 in soil additives to make it, but it was worth it if used over a short period of time. With it I grew some of the most exquisite plants I have ever grown, both small and standard, but what I discovered was it could only be used short term as over time the plants would "burn out" and fail to thrive. For that short period though, they were truly exceptional!

#### NEXT TIME

There's more to say about fertilizers, application, and overview and we'll take that up again next time. It's almost time for annual convention in DC, and the annual convention review of winners and new cultivars. For now, just keep 'em growing!



## In Memory

#### JANE HILTZ

Jane Hiltz of Southold, NY, passed away in February, 2002. Jane was a Past President of Sweet Water AVS and a member of Metropolitan Regional Council of AV Judges, New York State AVS and AVSA, having attained the level of Master Judge. Jane was always an enthusiastic teacher and promoter of the African violet hobby.

#### GEORGE LANDGREN

George L. Landgren died in March 2002. A long time mem-

ber of AVSA and the Lake Shore African Violet Club, George served as photographer at national, state and local violet shows. As a professional electrical engineer he was knowledgeable about lighting and offered a number of programs on the subject as it related to growing violets. His wife of over fifty-eight years, Anna Jean, has been active in African violet circles at all levels of activity and currently serves as Tally Time Chairman. George's gentle manner and kind ways will be sorely missed by his large family and many friends.



***Worth Repeating....***

*Reprinted from the African Violet Magazine, September 1984*

# Leaves: Wonder Factories

by Irene Fredette

We all take the green color of leaves for granted, but most of us fail to understand or appreciate the truly remarkable quality and function of the green substance. The process of photosynthesis takes place in the plant's leaves and depends on the presence of chlorophyll, the green pigment. With the exception of some bacteria and fungi, plants that do not contain chlorophyll cannot produce their own food.

Let us look briefly at the leaf, which is the seat of the most important single chemical process in the world. In terms of energy, there is nothing comparable. It makes all plants grow, and without it our planet would be a barren wasteland. And in terms of tonnage, it makes man's industries seem insignificant by comparison. The world's steel mills turn out approximately 350 million tons of steel annually, whereas the world's green leaves produce 150 billion tons of sugar each year by the process of photosynthesis. Photosynthesis can be defined as the production of food in plants through a complex reaction involving light, water, and carbon dioxide. It is the transformation of light energy into chemical energy or the making of sugar through the action of light.

The plant takes carbon out of the air and, by using the energy of light, turns it into materials for building up its own tissues. Where does the carbon come from? It appears in the air, combined with oxygen, as the inert gas carbon dioxide which is breathed out by animals and people as a waste product after breathing in oxygen. Plants "breathe in" this carbon dioxide through their leaves, break it down using energy from light, absorb the carbon, and liberate the oxygen into the air. After taking the carbon out of the atmosphere, plants combine it with water or with the hydrogen and oxygen molecules and in this way make an entirely new substance called carbohydrates which are the basis of all living tissues. It is the function of chlorophyll to take carbon dioxide from the air and water from the plant roots and produce a kind of sugar. With this sugar and the intake of mineral salts, green plants can make any of the substances they need for living.

The carbohydrate product of photosynthesis is phosphoglyceraldehyde, more commonly referred to as PGAL. As PGAL is formed, it undergoes one of three main fates: it may be used right away as a nutrient in the cell which produced it; it may be "packaged" for export to other cells; or it may be packaged for storage. When the just manufactured PGAL is used at once, it provides energy for more manufacturing. It is usable directly as a building material, and it may contribute to the construction of the many protoplasmic components of plant cells, repairing and rebuilding some of the chemical machinery required for PGAL production.

However, the green cell tends to manufacture much more PGAL than it requires for its own maintenance. The surplus of this photosynthetic product becomes available for export but is too reactive a material for shipment "as is". In transit it would react with other substances before reaching its destination - from leaf to root, for example. The green cell actually does package PGAL by converting it to glucose which is less reactive and not as likely to be altered chemically during transit. The green cells of a plant must, during the daytime, manufacture enough PGAL for themselves and must export enough glucose to all other cells to suffice.

The life of a plant cell depends on five activities: photosynthesis, respiration, protein formation, water intake, and excretion.

Photosynthesis, protein formation, and water intake build up the protoplasm of the cell and are called anabolic activities. Respiration and excretion break down the protoplasm and are called catabolic activities. Anabolism must exceed catabolism if the cell is to grow. Light is important, and there is a rhythm determined by the sequences of light and darkness. The cell survives periods of darkness by the excess of photosynthesis during periods of daylight or illumination.

Though there is a constant movement of water through the plant, only a part of it is used in making carbohydrates. This flow of water also carries dissolved salts to the leaves. It

evaporates at the leaf surface so that more water is drawn from veins to leaves, stem to veins, stalk to stem, roots to stalk.

In order to more readily visualize just how a plant sustains itself, one can compare its leaves to food production centers, i.e., the plant's "kitchen". Necessary ingredients or raw materials are delivered to the upper level kitchen via an intricate plumbing system, or conveyer belts, which begin in the "basement", or root area. Other ingredients are delivered through the open kitchen "windows" or stomata. The processing or manufacturing center is a very busy place, indeed, remarkable for its efficiency as well as the quality and quantity of production. Not only is the product consumed and enjoyed by the hardworking staff, but it is also packaged for export, stored, and the waste is properly disposed of. Thus, one can readily understand that a leaf is not to be taken for granted or to be dismissed lightly as an insignificant part of a plant. It is a vitally important factory in which all sorts of miracles take place.

In conclusion, let us touch upon the subject of unnecessary injury to plants which so often, without reason or rhyme, subjects the plant to trauma requiring a relatively long period of convalescence. It may take a year or more to bring about full recovery and peak performance in a plant which underwent radical leaf amputation. Your violet may need to have some leaves removed because they are old, discolored, damaged, or of unacceptable size. Eliminating unde-

sirable leaves in the interests of better grooming is a sound and legitimate practice. But do not follow the example of the grower who says: "When the plant is fairly large, I automatically remove several rows of leaves four or five months before a show." That grower may as well announce: "I prepare my masterpiece or 'piece de resistance' for the forthcoming banquet by wrecking a good part of the kitchen." A severely injured plant will exhibit some symptoms to indicate that it is not quite ready for peak performance. These may include smaller and fewer blossoms than when it is at its optimum, weaker flower stems, less symmetrical growth, lack of luster. In effect, the plant seems to be saying, "I'm not quite up to my potential and not what I could be."

When the ultimate goal is a spectacular bouquet above lovely foliage glowing with good health, it is good practice to begin by first concentrating on the leaves. They are tireless and versatile workers deserving of recognition and respect.

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## Lessons Learned

by Amy Cash-Allison • Montgomery, IL

When I began with African violets about five years ago, I listened attentively to every grower I could, read every book I could get my hands on, and asked a lot of questions. If an expert grower said they had excellent luck with a particular method, then I wanted to give it a try too. I tried some of the things they recommended, but I soon learned the truth behind that saying: "What works for one may not work for you."

Ever since my humble, insecure start into the violet realm, I have struggled to get my conditions just right - to get all my plants growing to the best of their ability. There always seems to be something not quite right - either the lights are too close, too far away, my pH is too high, the fertilizer is off...something! There have been a few die-hard varieties that bloom through everything and look good the majority of the time, but the rest have seemed to just hang on. Even though I've listened to the advice given to me, it hasn't always worked. I've tried to address each problem area independently, trying different methods to make my plants happy, but they still aren't quite there yet.

My first main problem was with lighting when we moved into our house a few years ago and bought another (used) light stand. When I noticed the plants "reaching" for light, I moved

the shelves an inch or two higher. Then the leaves burned. I moved them back down and waited. They never relaxed. Then I learned that a possibility was that the light was too intense. I put tissue paper over them, to see if that was indeed the problem and if it would help. They still didn't relax. I tried resting rings over the leaves to weigh them down - no good. My bulbs were 14 inches away from the tops of the plants. I had read that suggested space be 12-14 inches. But no matter what I did, the plants were not happy and continued reaching for the light. Desperately seeking a solution, I ordered a special light fixture with about eight inches in between the bulbs and put this fixture on another stand. The plants grew great. I thought all I would have to do was to replace the fixtures on my new stand. However, the fixtures would not fit. They were an inch too long. The original fixtures have very little space between bulbs, so I still believe that the intensity is an issue, but I think I've managed to gain some control over the problem.

What have I done? I've sacrificed my third shelf. I have lowered the other two shelves, so that now there is approximately 16-18 inches between the bulbs and the plants. They

*(continued on page 58)*

seem to be showing some improvement, but it's still too early to tell.

As for other issues, I've tried different fertilizers, too. I followed suggestions from other growers, but my plants reacted badly. They began showing signs of over-fertilizing, even after I lessened the amount. I now just alternate between three different brands, with a rest once a month. And of course, I'm leaching and repotting more frequently now, which really helps!

Another problem I had was haloing on the leaves. I had the pH of my tap water tested, and it tested very high. I used vinegar for a while, but it was too time consuming to mix all the "ingredients" into the water and have it the right temperature whenever I wanted to water. So, my solution to this problem has been purchasing distilled water. I buy a couple gallons at the grocery store every week, add my fertilizers, and just warm it up in the sink a little before I'm ready to water. This has saved a lot of time. The distilled water is

cheap, and I'm sure my plants appreciate the neutrality of the distilled water.

I've gone through a lot with my violets in the past few years, and I've tried to take the advice of knowledgeable people out there. However, there is one very important thing I've learned through all of this. So many folks will give you good advice, a lot of which will be worth heeding. But growing African violets is not a science. You cannot simply follow all of the rules in a book and have success. Everyone's house, methods, and ideas will be different. We can only use what we have and "tweak" it as we go along. My plants reward me with so much besides just their beautiful flowers. I look them over every day and walk away each time with a renewed sense of peace. I owe it to them to try to "perfect" my growing techniques. I know it will be a continuous learning process for me. Each season I will have a new challenge, but it's these challenges which bring me satisfaction and the happiness of growing my plants.




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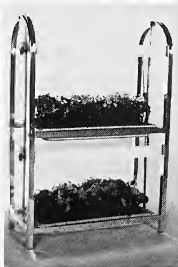
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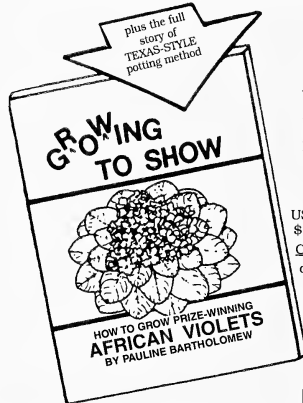
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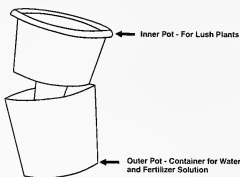
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2-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. or Sq.	1.15	2.40	4.55	8.60	40.50
3"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub, Std. Sq.	1.30	2.95	5.25	9.80	44.50
3-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.45	3.60	6.60	12.00	55.00
4"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.75	3.85	7.25	13.50	59.40
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# African Violet

*The magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.*

July • August 2002

Volume 55

Number 4



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**SHOW SCHEDULE APPROVER:** For information on Shows, AVSA Awards and Approving Schedules write to: Patricia Sutton, 1707 S. 77 E Ave., Tulsa, OK 74112. E-mail sutpa01@worldnet.att.net. **Do not send Show Schedules by E-mail - this address is for information ONLY.**

**AVSA OFFICE:** Jenny Daugeau, Administrative Coordinator, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702, 1-800-770-AVSA; 409-839-4725; FAX 409-839-4329. Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. CST. E-mail avsa@earthlink.net

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**AVM EDITOR:** Ruth Rumsey, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702; 409-839-4725; 1-800-770-2872; FAX 409-839-4329. E-mail rumsey@earthlink.net

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**Please Note: Deadlines** - Articles and Columnists: Jan. issue - Oct. 1; Mar. issue - Dec. 1; May issue - Feb. 1; July issue - Apr. 1; Sept. issue - June 1; Nov. issue - Aug. 1.

**COMING EVENTS:** Send to Editor.

**Coming Events Deadlines:** - Jan. issue - Nov. 1; Mar. issue - Jan. 1; May issue - Mar. 1; July issue - May 1; Sept. issue - July 1; Nov. issue - Sept. 1.

**ADVERTISING MANAGER:** Advertising rates and information: Judith Carter, 1825 W. Lincoln St., Broken Arrow, OK 74012. avmads@msn.com

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**RESEARCH:** Send suggested projects for scientific research or names of interested, qualified potential research personnel to Dr. Jeff Smith, 3014 W. Amherst Rd., Muncie, IN 47304.

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# African Violet

*The Magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.*

July • August

Volume 55

Number 4

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### COVER

#### Rainbow's Quiet Riot

2002 AVSA National Show

Best In Show

Best Standard

Best Fantasy

Exhibited by: **Tony Hulleman**

Hybridized by: **R. Wasmund**



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

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### OFFICERS:

**Jack Wilson**, President  
10007 Bent Tree Ln., Manassas, VA 20111  
email: cagmo@aol.com

**Janet Riemer**, 1st VP  
256 Pennington-Harbourton Rd.  
Pennington, NJ 08534-4007  
email: JTRiemer@aol.com

**Linda Owens**, 2nd VP  
1762 Stenwood Dr., Columbus, OH 43228  
email: Ldowens215@aol.com

**Joyce Stork**, 3rd VP  
2501 E. 23rd Ave. S., Fremont, NE 68025  
email: kents@tvsonline.net

**Sue Ramser**, Secretary  
2413 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308  
email: ramserstv@wf.net

**Gary Gordon**, Treasurer  
120 Brinkwood Rd., Brookville, MD 20835  
email: ggordon120@aol.com

**Bill Foster**, Immediate Past President  
3610 Gray Drive, Mesquite, TX 75150  
email: bpfoster@airmail.net

### STAFF:

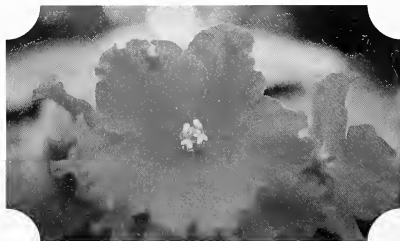
**Ruth Rumsey**, Editor  
2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702  
email: rumsey@earthlink.net

**Judith Carter**, Advertising Manager  
1825 W. Lincoln St., Broken Arrow, OK 74012  
email: AVMads@msn.com

**Barbara Pershing**, Publications  
8134 Buck Ridge, Cedar Falls, IA 50613  
email: barbara.pershing@uni.edu

**Floyd Lawson**, Best Varieties, Honor Roll  
1100 W. Huntington Dr., #21, Arcadia, CA 91007  
email: floydll@earthlink.net

**Anna Jean Landgren**, Tally Time  
20 Calvin Circle, Evanston, IL 60301  
email: geojal@aol.com



Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.

# President's Message



Dear AVSA Members,

What a way to kick off the start of summer! We had a great convention and show in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. For the hundreds of registered AVSA members and walk-ins, it was a show to remember. With 807 horticulture exhibits and 75 design exhibits, it had something for everyone. We were all amazed at the number and size of the standard plants exhibited. If you like "washtub" sized plants, you saw many of them. There were also lots of other gesneriads. I don't think I've ever seen so many beautiful streps in any show. The judges judging the AVSA Collections really had their judging talents tested; there were so many beautiful collections, I know they had a very difficult time determining the top awards.



Each of the many exhibitors is thanked for entering such beautiful plants and designs. Without your participation, we would have no show. The many award winners are congratulated for your excellence.

Tony Hullerman took Best in Show honors, Marie Burns had the best AVSA Standard Collection, Kathy Lahti had the best AVSA Mini-Semi Collection, and Robert McCabe took Amateur Horticulture Sweepstakes with 39 blue ribbons. Best Design in Show went to Barb Festenstein while Design Sweepstakes went to Karyn Cichocki with 9 blue ribbons. Paul Sorano of Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses won all three commercial Best New Introduction awards. For details and full information, check the AVSA website at AVSA.org.

For any convention to be a success, it must have good leadership. Good leadership then attracts good committee chairs and workers. We were particularly blessed in having Gary Gordon and Mary Boland as Convention Co-Chairs and Sharon Long and Susan Barbi as Show Co-Chairs. They and their DC Convention Team earned a deserved "well done" from everyone. Kitty Hedgepeth provided the outstanding staging that received much praise. Special thanks to Shirley Huffman who coordinated the President's reception and to Annamarie Mays the local tour coordinator and doer of whatever needed done. Our thanks go to everyone: the DC Convention team, the exhibitors, and attendees for making this convention one that will be long remembered as extra special.

We had 37 states and 5 countries represented. We know we are "doing it right" when our friends from Canada, Panama, Japan, and Taiwan continue to come each year. For the first time ever we had AVSA members from Russia join us. Vladimir Kalgin and his lovely wife Tatiana from the Saintpaulia Society of Russia in Moscow took many pictures to share with their 200-person group.

Both are looking forward to joining us in Baton Rouge.

Our convention hotel was also the host hotel for the "Rolling Thunder" groups' leadership. The motorcyclists come to DC each Memorial Day and honor our military service members and remember the unaccounted for prisoners of wars. We had over 200 in our hotel. It was fun seeing our violet friends mingling with the bikers. When the events kicked-off early Sunday morning, there were between 250,000-350,000 people involved. It was really an impressive display of patriotism.

Unfortunately, this convention also had some very sad moments. Bill Lyons, our former Booster Fund Chairman, and Frank Tinari, a past AVSA President and long time Research Committee Chair, both died in Pennsylvania during convention week. They were avid supporters of AVSA and very dear friends. Our condolences and prayers go to Kay Lyons and Anne Tinari. We are so privileged you shared such fine gentlemen with us. They will be missed.

After having so much fun at this convention, I'm now thinking of next year's April convention in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Seeing the enthusiasm and dedication of the Baton Rouge Convention Team, it is very easy to imagine the fun we'll have there. Also, just think of all that great Cajun food! That alone will be something special. With the great hotel rates and an easy drive for many of our members, this will be a well-attended convention. There'll be much more on the convention later. Make plans now for next April in Baton Rouge.

Have a great summer. Keep those violets in great shape so you can be a big winner in the fall shows.

Sincerely,

John E. (Jack) Wilson  
AVSA President

# Editor's Notes



Ruth Rumsey • 2375 North Street • Beaumont, Texas 77702  
(409) 839-4725 • email [rrumsey@earthlink.net](mailto:rrumsey@earthlink.net)

As always, the convention week flew by. The hotel in Crystal City, Virginia, was beautiful, centrally located, and near the Metro, which made getting around Washington, DC, very easy.

The popular US Congressman from Beaumont, Texas, **Nick Lampson**, met a small group of us early one morning and escorted us over to the White House for a VIP tour. Though some of us had been there before, the experience was one that again filled us with pride and reverence.

My old friend, **Tom Combs**, Congressman Lampson's Chief of Staff, and **Xavier Van Chau**, Legislative Assistant, were instrumental in arranging our tour, which added so much to the visit to our nation's capitol.

The 2002 National Show was a success; row after row of beautiful plants filled the room. To review the show results, please have a look at page 10 in this issue.

That skillful Canadian, **Tony Hulleman**, winner of 2001's Best in Show and numerous other awards, reigned again with Best in Show, Second Best in Show, Best Standard, Best Holtkamp Collection, Best Trailer, and Best Standard Chimera.

In the Commercial entries, **Olive Ma Robinson** won Best African Violet in Show, **Shannon Ahlman** won Second Best in Show, and **Paul Sorano** won Third Best in Show.

Paul also won Best New Cultivar, Second Best New Cultivar, and Third Best New Cultivar. A proud showing for Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses.

There were several important awards given at this convention. **Paul Kroll** of East Aurora, NY, received the Hudson Award for Affiliate Leadership. As a surprise, Paul's lovely wife, **Ann**, flew in and was there when he received this important award.

**Ruth Warren** of Tiverton, RI, served our society as a former Chairman of most of AVSA's committees. Ruth was awarded AVSA's Continuing Service Award for the contributions she has made to AVSA over the past thirty-two years.



Paul Kroll, recipient of the Hudson Memorial Award

As many of you know, Jenny had emergency surgery less than two weeks before the convention. Although her physician released Jenny for travel, our office secretary, **Amy Sanders**, was asked to accompany us to DC, to assist Jenny.

For the first time, the AVSA Office was closed for convention week. We apologize to any of our members who may have been inconvenienced, and thank all of you for your understanding and the kind messages you left on the office recorder.

We all enjoyed seeing our friends, and meeting some of those we've only spoken with on the phone. **Charlie Yandolino**, a commercial member and owner of UareSoBeautiful.com, brought her sister **Toni Hedges**. Their booth in the sales area featured not only Charlie's beautiful note cards, but many of Toni's gorgeous ceramic pots.

Canadians **Bill Price** and AVSA Official Photographer, **Winston Goretsky**, accomplished Jenny, Amy, and me on an enlightening Metro ride and a tour of the Arlington National Cemetery.

During the early months of this year, we received several calls from members who had not received their magazines. Some were even three to four weeks overdue. We always urge you to check with your local postmaster before filing a claim with the office. We've found that bulk mailing is not a high priority in many areas.

To offset this problem, I decided to move my production schedule up. The May issue was mailed out more than a week earlier than usual, and that seemed to help the delivery problem in most areas. I asked many of you to let me know by email when you received your May issues. The average time seemed to be six to eight days from the mailing date.

I intend to follow this schedule from now on, and must hold firm to the deadlines for Columns, Coming Events, and Advertising. If you do not make the deadline which is listed on the inside front cover of each issue, your contribution may be left out of the AVM. PLEASE pay attention to the deadlines.



AVSA President Jack Wilson with  
Ruth Warren, recipient of the Continuing Service Award

# TIME TABLE FOR SHOW

Dorothy Kosowsky • Whittier, CA

**Phase One:** During the four to six months before your show, repot all standard plants. Large plants of about 12" would require a 6" pot to allow for expected growth. Smaller standards could be put into 5" azalea pots with 2 1/2" of perlite in the bottom of the pot, or 5" shallow pan pots.

1. Repot plants, put them on a ring, and then allow them to recover for 24 hours before returning them to the light stand.
2. Check plants daily.
  - a. If necessary, move leaves using clothes pins attached to the ring for a few days.
  - b. Disbud and remove all suckers.
  - c. Provide humidity and mist.
  - d. Turn plants.
3. Rotate fertilizers to provide a balance of trace elements as well as nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium. If you plan to foliar feed, start with the first week after repotting and one day a week thereafter. Use any fertilizer that says "for use on foliage".
4. Pick one day a week to remove any leaves that are smaller than those in the row above. This IMPROVES the center leaves, which actually go "To Show", and the plant's symmetry will not be thrown off by late removal.
5. If possible, the plants should have a warm water bath at the sink at least every six weeks, but once a month would be better. Use clear water and tilt the plant on its side, spraying it free of dirt. (An old fashioned dish drainer placed upside down over the sink works like a charm. Just place the plant in the groove for plates, and it will hold it in place while you work on the plant.)

**Phase Two:** About three months before your show, repot all miniatures and semiminiatures, unless you know that they take five months to come into bloom (like Precious Pink and possibly a few others).

1. Provide a ring for each plant, as it is an excellent tool for checking symmetry and turning a plant. You can fashion one from a foam plastic plate by cutting a 6" round, with a center hole to fit the pot you are using. Be sure that there are plenty of holes or spaces cut for good ventilation. These rings can fit even a 2" pot.

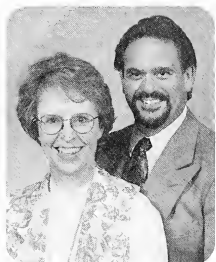
2. The distance from the light should be adjusted in the beginning. Since I have stationary lights, I use a piece of egg crating (for florescent lights) placed on top of 4" pots (or two strawberry boxes nested in 6 or 8 places under the grid) to raise the egg crating to the proper distance from the lights. Then each pot is placed on its own saucer. With the rings in place, there is plenty of room for symmetrical growth.
3. The same routine that has been established for standards is used for all plants from this point until "Show".

**Phase Three:** At eight weeks, start the main push for a beautiful head of bloom.

1. Apply the first feeding of Green Light Super Bloom 12-55-6 fertilizer. If you started foliar feeding in the beginning, this is used instead of the Rapid Gro 20-20-20 for two weeks.
2. Disbud all extra double blooming plants, as they seem to need the full time to come into optimum condition.
3. At 7 weeks, disbud all semidouble/double and other doubles.
4. By removing the perlite, pot down any plants which have had more than two rows of leaves removed. For the last 5 or 6 weeks, the loss of perlite will not be a problem if the plant is growing well. If the growth is poor, consider repotting and keeping it for the next show, or perhaps dumping that variety.
5. At 6 weeks, disbud all singles.
6. Start washing each plant. At least one good bath is needed before the show, but two would be better.
7. During the 4th and 3rd week, start checking to see that the peduncles are able to get up through the foliage. Move them gently towards the center of the plant. Check that all leaves are in the correct row when you have finished with the peduncles.
8. Final check before show. See that there are:  
NO IMMATURE LEAVES IN THE BOTTOM ROW  
NO DIRT ON THE PLANT  
NO LEAVES OUT OF PLACE  
NO DEAD OR FADING BLOOMS  
NO STUBS OF ANY SORT

*From the California Council News*





**Kent and Joyce Stork**  
2501 E. 23rd Ave. S.  
Fremont NE 68025  
kents@tvsonline.net

## WHAT KIND OF GROWER ARE YOU?

Does that question sound too personal? We're not talking about being a good or a bad grower. Rather, we're talking about your purpose for growing violets. Growers can be pretty different in viewpoint. The reasons and goals for growing African violets, among other things, can affect the methods and the equipment that are needed.

While every grower is a little unique, here are some growers with different viewpoints and the techniques that work best for them. So, what kind of grower are you?

### **Beulah Buy-and-Throw**

Beulah likes to go to the store or the violet show and choose a beautiful blooming violet. She takes it home to set in a prominent spot on her coffee table and enjoys having the color in her room. When the flowers are gone, she throws it away and buys another.

*Advice to Beulah:*

*Light:* Use whatever is available.

*Watering method:* Water once every five to seven days, either into the top of the pot or by filling the saucer below. With either method, the saucer should be emptied within a half an hour.

*Pot:* Use whatever it comes in. Beulah might enjoy choosing a pretty piece of pottery or brass that she can use to hide her unpretentious store pot.

*Fertilizer:* Any balanced fertilizer, used according to package directions, is good idea but not really necessary.

*Grooming:* Pick off the dead flowers as they fade.

*Transplanting:* Won't happen.

### **Wendy Windowsill**

Wendy wants to keep a violet on her windowsill. It was

a gift and she feels responsible for keeping it alive for as long as possible. She likes to see it in bloom. She probably won't get another.

*Advice to Wendy*

*Light:* Place next to a bright window where the air temperature is almost always in the 70's Fahrenheit.

*Watering method:* Same as Beulah, or use a constant water method, such as wicking, to avoid forgetting.

*Pot:* Could be a clay pot to get that natural look, but then Wendy needs to water twice a week. Could be an inexpensive plastic pot or a decorative pot (with a hole for drainage), or even a pot that will self-water.

*Fertilizer:* Use a balanced water-soluble African violet fertilizer that is added with each watering.

*Grooming:* Remove spent flowers and whole flower stalks when no buds are left. Remove dead leaves as they fade.

*Transplanting:* If a clay pot is used, most commercial potting mixes will be acceptable. In other pots, use fairly light medium using half commercial all-purpose potting mix and half vermiculite or perlite. Repot once a year to bury the neck that is under the leaves.

### **Olivia Office**

Olivia is a lot like Wendy. She bought one violet to keep at work to brighten her space. She never really knows what is happening to it when she goes home.

*Light:* Place near a bright window that doesn't get too warm. Better yet, set it on top of a file cabinet and near a ceiling fluorescent fixture. Even better, find a spot in her cubicle under a fluorescent desk light that is plugged into a timer set to go on automatically for twelve hours each day. That way



an eight hour work-day will not shortchange the violet's need for light.

*Watering method:* Olivia could use the same method Beulah uses, but using a constant water method (in a specially designed pot) would be better if the office air is dry.

*Pot:* Same as Wendy, but stability is important, especially if a constant water method is used (the boss hates when the computer gets wet!)

*Fertilizer:* Same

*Grooming:* Same as Wendy.

*Transplanting:* Once a year, but best done at home during vacation time. After transplanting, place the plant into a clear plastic bag and set it in a bright spot out of direct sunlight. No water is needed while it is in the bag. When the vacation is done, the plant will be ready to return to the office, and no one there will have to apologize for forgetting to water it.

### **Betty "I-Have-a-Lot, Probably-Six-or-Seven"**

Betty doesn't have a huge collection by many standards, but she really enjoys having violets around the house. She expects to have some in bloom most of the time. She's a little more sophisticated in her growing techniques than Wendy or Olivia. She might subscribe to the *African Violet Magazine*.

*Advice to Betty:*

*Light:* Similar to Wendy. More plants require a larger window, and one that faces east and/or south works well. Better, place a few plants under a small fluorescent light fixture (under a cupboard or on a table) so that the violets still get good light when the daylight hours are short. It is wise to plug that fixture into a timer instead of depending on Betty's ability to remember her plants.

*Watering method:* Similar to Wendy.

*Pot:* With only six or seven, any affordable pot can be used, but all of the violets should be the same type pot so that watering schedules and care remain the same for each plant.

*Fertilizer:* Same as Wendy.

*Grooming:* Similar to Wendy. Watch for insects and fungus. Multiple plants share problems and a watchful eye will solve problems before they are out of control.

*Transplanting:* Once a year repot all of the violets in the same session. By then, her violets will have a neck below the lowest row of leaves, because of old leaves that have been removed. Scrape the neck with the dull side of a knife to remove dried brown scab tissue. Lift the plant out of the pot and cut away enough soil from the bottom of the root-ball to equal the length of the neck. Set the violet back into the pot, add fresh potting mix (same type as recommended for Wendy) to the top of the pot to bury the neck.

### **Sally "I-Don't-Have-Many, Just-Fifty-or-So"**

Sally really loves African violets and she hopes to get more. She belongs to the African Violet Society of America, and reads the magazine as soon as it comes. She has ordered violets to be shipped to her. She belongs to a local violet club. She sells a few at the annual club sale, but she usually buys more.

*Advice to Sally:*

*Light:* Sally may want to keep a few in windows, but a collection this large really needs to be under fluorescent lights to do well. She would be wise to build or invest in a lighted stand. The lights should be set about ten to twelve inches above the foliage and turned on for ten to twelve hours each day. A timer would be a good investment.

*Watering:* It is possible to water each plant individually, but in a busy week, Sally might be tempted to postpone the job too long. Constant water methods will make life easier. Each plant could be placed above its own reservoir with a wick dangling below the pot into the water. The reservoirs need to be refilled before they empty, but may last for several weeks before needing attention. A second choice would be to place a number of violets with wicks above a large tray of water that has a grating across it. Adding water to the tray once a week ensures constant water, but it can be done more quickly. A third choice would be to use capillary matting in the large trays. Potted violets with wicks are set directly onto wet matting and water needs to be added weekly to be sure the matting stays fairly moist.

*Pot:* Decorative pots are probably too expensive for Sally's large collection. Plastic pots will be the best choice if a constant water method is used, so that pots do not go dry too quickly. Sally should look for pots that 1) are squatty, to accommodate a shallow root system, 2) have a rolled edge or smooth edge to protect leaf against sharp edges, and 3) are about one-half to one-third the diameter of the violet. If she uses capillary matting, she will want a pot that is flat on the bottom for better contact. Sally may also want to choose a pot that can be written on, so that the hybrid name will stay with the violet that is in the pot.

*Fertilizer:* Sally should use a good water-soluble fertilizer just as Wendy, but she might find that her club members recommend a specific brand or type that works best in her climate and with the chemistry of her water. She might get more flowers by using a formulation that has a higher percentage of phosphorus (the middle number).

*Grooming:* Sally should set aside a little time each week to look closely at her plants. Since they are watering themselves, it would be easy for insects or diseases to invade without being noticed. Dead flowers and spent bud stems should be removed and disposed of outside the growing room. Leaves that are fading in color or that are smaller than the leaves above should be removed. Side shoots (called suckers) need to be removed before they have more than five or six leaves. She should adjust the distance between plants to keep leaves from touching. Sally might also find that violets that aren't performing as well as she expects can be thrown away to make room for better varieties.

*Transplanting:* Sally should be watching for exposed necks under the lowest row of leaves on each of her violets, and transplanting regularly to bury that neck. She will want to use a potting mix that is formulated especially for violet hobbyists (her club may sell a mix that works well in their climate). She may want to mix her own recipe using one part milled Canadian sphagnum peat moss, one part coarse ver-

miculite, and one part coarse perlite, with a small amount of charcoal and perhaps dolomite lime to buffer the pH. She should also watch how fast her small plants are growing and transplant them to slightly broader pots as they grow bigger than three times the diameter of their current pot. She will also want to take leaf cuttings to start new plants of her favorite varieties to sell at club sales or to share with friends.

### Gary Greenhouse

Gary wants to grow a fairly large number of violets inexpensively by taking advantage of natural sunlight. He may have lots of other kinds of plants in his greenhouse too. He knows how to control air temperatures that soar during the daylight and cool significantly in the evening. He pays attention to publications about greenhouse growing, especially articles on pest and disease control. Like Sally, he has an interest in associating with other African violet growers.

**Light:** Gary depends on available light but he should watch out for bleached foliage on the violets. This would indicate that he needs to increase the amount of shading on the glass to protect them from too much light. If he chooses to grow violets underneath benches filled with other types of plants, he might wish to add fluorescent light fixtures to supplement light during winter months.

**Watering:** Gary probably should have a specialized system for watering all of his plants. He might choose drip irrigation or an ebb and flow system that adds fertilizer automatically. He should not use a hose to spray water across the surface of violet leaves or spots will result.

**Pot:** If Gary lives in a warm climate, he might be wise to choose clay pots, because they provide natural cooling to the soil on hot days. If he chooses clay, he must be careful that the pots have a similar squattness and diameter to those recommended for Sally. He may need to protect lower leaves from damage caused by the salts that accumulate in the walls of the pot. If heat is not such a problem, plastic pots will work well following the same guidelines as Sally. If he uses drip irrigation or ebb and flow watering, he may need a pot that has an uneven bottom to allow air-flow underneath.

**Fertilizer:** Similar to Sally. If Gary injects one fertilizer into his automatic system to water all different types of plants, he should probably choose a balanced 20-20-20 formula. Gary should be monitoring his pH and salt levels fairly carefully.

**Grooming:** Gary should keep a close eye on all of his plants for insects and disease, especially if the greenhouse is ventilated with fresh air. While his grooming should be similar to Sally's regime, he needs to be especially careful to avoid bad habits of tossing dead leaves and flowers onto the floor.

**Transplanting:** Same as Sally, but could use a somewhat heavier mix (more peat) if potting into clay pots.

### Katie Commercial

Katie is in business to sell African violets. She grows many varieties of mature plants to exhibit and to use for propagating plants to sell. She has customers visiting her growing room and she advertises plants to sell in the *African Violet*

*Magazine*. She has hybridized several new varieties that she named and introduced. She has no idea how many violet plants she has at any one time, but it is probably thousands.

**Advice for Katie:**

**Light:** Katie could either choose the greenhouse setting (and follow the advice for Gary) or use many fluorescent lights on shelf units in her place of business. If she chooses the latter, she will need to watch the air temperature closely because the light units produce heat.

**Watering:** If Katie uses the greenhouse, her method should be similar to Gary. If she grows inside a building, her methods will be like Sally's. Katie might want to hire a helper to be responsible for the watering so that Katie is freed to do more technical work.

**Pot:** Katie wants to make a profit, so choosing inexpensive pots is best. If she will be shipping violets through the mail or carrying many plants to sales, she will want the pots to be lightweight as well. Katie will probably choose plastic pots, purchased in case lots, in several sizes to fit all of the different stages in which she sells plants. Keeping track of the variety names will be especially important for Katie, so she should have a good labeling system for her pots.

**Fertilizer:** Similar to Sally. Katie might want to offer her favorite fertilizer for sale to her customers.

**Grooming:** Similar to Sally, but must be done daily to keep good order.

**Transplanting:** This should be a regular weekly task for Katie. She should be thinking ahead to when plants need to be ready for sales and setting a schedule for when to put down leaves, separate clumps, and move small plants up into the mature size pot.

### Priscilla Prizewinner

Priscilla grows African violets to show in competition. She wants to perfect her growing and exhibition skills so that she can win big prizes. Her collection is easily as large as Sally's, but she chooses her violets by how symmetrically they grow, how easily they bloom, and for specific size and color classes in show competitions. She tries lots of different varieties and throws away (or sells) the ones which do not perform for her. She is a member of at least one club so that she can compete in shows and she even takes plants to the national AVSA convention when it is close to her.

**Advice to Priscilla:**

**Light:** Similar to Sally, but Priscilla should watch plants very closely to see how they react to the fluorescent light. She should move plants that are reaching upward into the brightest light at the center of the light unit and move plants whose leaves are bleaching (even a little bit) closer to the edges of shelves. As show dates approach, Sally should be increasing the amount of light each week up to fifteen hours a day in the last two weeks. She should keep track of how old her fluorescent tubes are and replace them yearly. She may want to invest in more expensive tubes designed to maximize growth.

**Watering:** Similar to Sally. Priscilla will be very careful not to splash water on leaves when she refills trays.

*Pot:* Similar to Sally. Priscilla should choose pots that are the color that show schedules require, usually white and/or green. She might watch for especially pretty or novel containers to grow a violet for an Unusual Container class. She would be wise to add a leaf support ring to each pot to hold leaves in a horizontal position (and not hanging down) for more perfect growth patterns. She must keep track of the variety names carefully so that she enters plants that are correctly identified. She should adhere closely to the rule of keeping the pot one-third the diameter of the leaf span as the plants grow.

*Fertilizer:* Priscilla should make her fertilizer decisions very carefully. She does not want to over fertilize and cause burning on the edges of leaves (she will lose points in competition), but she must fertilize enough to get rich green foliage, extreme vigor, and a full head of bloom. She will probably choose a balanced fertilizer (or one with a somewhat higher phosphorus content) for the six months that she disbuds, and then switch to one with extra phosphorus in the last ten to fifteen weeks. She should be watching closely to see how her plants are reacting, and making adjustments in the measurements accordingly. Priscilla should leach her show plants with clear water every month or so to be sure that excess fertilizer salts are being removed.

*Grooming:* Similar to Sally, but with religious fervor. Priscilla should disbud all violets (remove all flowers and buds) she intends to show for about six months before the show. She should then stop disbudding and allow buds to develop about six to eight weeks before the show date. Three weeks before the show, she should remove any open individual flowers so that new buds will keep developing at a rapid

rate. She should wash the leaves of her violets two or three weeks before the show by holding the plants at an angle under a gently running stream of tepid water, after which she should blot the foliage dry. She should also remove outside leaves (especially ones that are smaller or have imperfections) to achieve a nearly-perfect round pattern. In the final hours before entry, she should brush away any particles of dust, remove any blossoms that are spent or becoming transparent, and carefully remove any remaining stubs of leaves or flower stems.

*Transplanting:* Priscilla should transplant at least twice per year, keeping her plants in fresh and very light potting mix (as recommended to Sally). She should not disturb roots as she pots her rapidly growing violets into larger pots, and she must never ever pack the soil. She should pot her plants slightly deeper into the pot, so that, if leaves are removed just before the show, the resulting neck can be buried by adding a little potting mix to the top of the pot. She should always premoisten her mix to avoid dust and debris on leaves.

### Did you find yourself?

Violets can be grown in so many ways using many different methods. It would be biased to suggest that any one was more or less important than the other. Growers simply have different aspirations. Hopefully you found one grower who is most like you and some good tips to improve your growing style. As time passes, and you master your technique, you may find that you want to try a new or different way of approaching the hobby. We hope you grow in lots of ways!



## Birthmarking

by Dr. Jeff Smith

An African violet grower described her plants as having leaves with red patches on the backs of them, which show as darker patches on the surface of the leaves. Also, the flowers are almost solid purple instead of white with purple markings.

The plants described above suffer from a condition known as "birthmarks". The gene for making the red leaf back pigment (an anthocyanin) is randomly turning off and on. When the gene is working, the red pigment is made in the lower epidermal cells of the leaf, giving the whole leaf a darker green appearance. When the gene is not working, the red pigment is not made, and the leaf appears a lighter green in coloration. You might think of this as being similar to the spots and dashes in a fantasy flower, but appearing in the leaves. The pattern of red and green is totally unpredictable and can vary considerably from leaf to leaf in the plant. While the plant may look "diseased", it's actually very healthy.

The condition often persists through leaf cuttings and may or may not be stabilized in the baby plants. If you don't want

the condition, I'd suggest taking a leaf that is as solid a green (or red) as possible and putting it down to root. Check the color of the skin of the petiole. If the petiole skin is red/green, then you'll often get babies with the birthmark trait. If the petiole skin color is solid green or red, hopefully the resulting babies will only show one form of the trait, but they will always be suspect in their genetic stability.

At times, the condition does get expressed in the flowers. In these cases, the amount of pigment will randomly turn off and on, giving the flowers a mottled or almost fantasy appearance. I don't know a "cause" for the condition. It likely is a random mutation in the stem's apical meristem, or growing point, that just happens to be more visible to us because of the color changes.

*From the archives of the AVConnection,  
an Internet discussion group.*



# 2002 AVSA National Show Winners

## Washington, DC



### Best African Violet in Show

Rainbow's Quiet Riot  
Won by: **Tony Hulleman**  
Burlington, ON Canada

### Second Best African Violet in Show

The Alps  
Won by: **Tony Hulleman**  
Burlington, ON Canada

### Third Best African Violet in Show

Rob's Fiddle Faddle  
Won by: **Kathy Lahti**, Annandale, MN

### Best AVSA Collection (Standard/Species)

Harbor Blue  
Party Print  
Pink Patti  
Won by: **Marie Burns**, Baltimore, MD

### Second Best AVSA Collection (Standard/Species)

Tomahawk  
Marching Band  
Shooting Star  
Won by: **Rodney J. Barnett**, Red Lion, PA

### Best AVSA Collection (Miniature/Semiminiature)

Rob's Fiddle Faddle  
Rob's Fuddy Duddy  
Optimara Little Shoshone  
Won by: **Kathy Lahti**, Annandale, MN

### Second Best AVSA Collection (Miniature/Semiminiature)

Pink Dove  
Precious Purple  
Rob's Romancer  
Won by: **Ron Ennis**, Neptune, NJ

### Best Holtkamp Collection

Optimara Ontario  
Optimara Wisconsin  
Optimara Jamaica  
Won by: **Tony Hulleman**  
Burlington, ON Canada

### Best Robinson Collection

Rob's Heebie Jeebie  
Rob's Little Pueblo  
Rob's Fiddle Faddle  
Won by: **Kathy Lahti**, Annandale, MN

### Best Standard

Rainbow's Quiet Riot  
Won by: **Tony Hulleman**  
Burlington, ON Canada

### Best Miniature

Pink Dove  
Won by: **Ron Ennis**, Neptune, NJ

### Best Semiminiature

Rob's Fiddle Faddle  
Won by: **Kathy Lahti**, Annandale, MN

### Best Trailer

Rob's Boolaroo  
Won by: **Tony Hulleman**  
Burlington, ON Canada

### Best Species

Saintpaulia grandifolia #237  
Won by: **Felicia Wdowiak**, Durham, NC

### Best Vintage Violet

Wisteria  
Won by: **Stephen Phillips**, Greenville, SC

### Best Other Gesneriad

Trichantha pulchra 'Orange Crush'  
Won by: **Robert McCabe**, Ottawa, ON Canada

### Best Variegated African Violet in Show

Precious Pink  
Won by: **Meredith M Hall**, Houston, TX

### Education Table

Education exhibit  
Won by: **Nellie Reese**, Colonial Heights, VA

### Best Design in Show

"The Smithsonian Institution"  
Won by: **Barb Festenstein**, Rochester, NY

### Second Best Design in Show

"Embassy Row"  
Won by: **Carol Callaghan**, Wilmington, DE

### Third Best Design in Show

"Dish Garden - 12" or less"  
Won by: **Barbara Stewart**, Midlothian, VA

### Horticulture Sweepstakes (tie)

39 blue ribbons  
Won by: **Robert McCabe**, Ottawa, ON Canada  
Won by: **Tony Hulleman**  
Burlington, ON Canada

### Design Sweepstakes

9 blue ribbons (tie)  
Won by: **Karyn Cichocki**, Lafayette, NJ

### COMMERCIAL CLASSES

#### Best Commercial Display Table

Won by: **Ralph 'Rob' Robinson**, Naples, NY

#### Second Best Commercial Display Table

Won by: **Deborah Sanders**, Spencerport, NY

#### Best African Violet on Display Table

Rob's Fuddy Duddy  
Won by: **Ralph 'Rob' Robinson**, Naples, NY

#### Best African Violet in Show (Commercial Specimen)

Ma's Second Thoughts  
Won by: **Olive Ma Robinson**, Naples, NY

### Second Best African Violet in Show (Commercial Specimen)

Picasso  
Won by: **Shannon Ahlman**, Grand Island NE

### Third Best African Violet in Show (Commercial Specimen)

Plumberry Glow  
Won by: **Paul Sorano**, Dolgeville, NY

### Best AVSA Standard Collection (Commercial)

Okie Grape Festival  
Floozie  
Picasso  
Won by: **Shannon Ahlman**, Grand Island, NE

### Second Best AVSA Standard Collection (Commercial)

Ma's Corsage  
Ma's Debutante  
Ma's Soiree  
Won by: **Olive Ma Robinson**, Naples, NY

### Best AVSA Mini/Semimini Collection (Commercial)

Optimara Little Crow  
Optimara Little Aztec  
Optimara Little Cherokee  
Won by: **Olive Ma Robinson**, Naples, NY

### Best Holtkamp Collection (Commercial)

Optimara Rose Quartz  
Optimara Little Moonstone  
Optimara Little Crystal  
Won by: **Olive Ma Robinson**, Naples, NY

### Second Best Holtkamp Collection (Commercial)

Rhapsodie Rebecca  
Optimara Chagall  
Optimara Monet  
Won by: **Kent Stork**, Fremont, NE

### Best Other Gesneriad (Commercial Specimen)

Streptocarpus 'Calico Print'  
Won by: **David Thompson**, Waterloo, IA

### Best New Cultivar (Commercial)

Optical Illusion  
Won by: **Paul Sorano**, Dolgeville, NY

### Second Best New Cultivar (Commercial)

Party Parasol  
Won by: **Paul Sorano**, Dolgeville, NY

### Third Best New Cultivar (Commercial)

Plumberry Glow  
Won by: **Paul Sorano**, Dolgeville, NY

### Commercial Horticulture Sweepstakes

16 blue ribbons (tie)  
Won by: **David Thompson**, Waterloo, IA

# Grooming For Symmetry

by Pauline Bartholomew

From her book *"Growing to Show"*

Symmetry is more than the outer leaf tips touching an imaginary circle. It is also the leaves and rows of leaves overlapping each other, the straightness of the petioles, the evenness of the spacing of the foliage around the stem, and each layer of leaves being progressively larger than the layer that follows.

A grower cannot create symmetry where none exists. The degree of symmetry which a plant can achieve is a basic characteristic of each variety. However, inherent symmetry can be improved by the application of various techniques. Grooming is one of them.

Grooming involves removing leaves that detract from the circular pattern and from the proper progression of leaf size. Because of its complexity, it is usually one of the last skills that new growers attempt to learn. First, a beginner is reluctant to remove any leaf for fear it will be wrong, for everyone recognizes the fact that a leaf once removed can never be reattached. Second, the beginner is so proud of having grown a plant to a substantial size that it seems a sacrilege to start removing what appear to be perfectly good leaves.

However, this skill must be acquired, and the only way is through practice. And, just as the word practice implies,



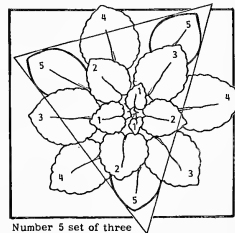
mistakes will be made while you are learning. Relax! A mistake can be grown out in a few months and the plant will be as good as new. At first, the decision to remove even one leaf will be agonizingly slow. However, you soon will be able to casually strip away an entire row of unwanted leaves in a matter of minutes.

Marred leaves are obvious, but the new grower must learn to recognize immature (baby), off-sized, and wayward leaves.

## THE PATTERN OF THREE

As new leaves emerge from the crown, they form a distinct pattern of three. Each row of leaves consists of several groups of this series of three. The leaves do not emerge simultaneously. Thus, they are not equal in size and do not form an equilateral triangle (all sides equal). Rather, they form a scalene triangle (three unequal sides). You need to train your eye to see this particular triangular pattern.

The pattern of three is fairly easy to recognize on young plants but becomes more difficult to discern as the plant matures. When one immature leaf is spotted, always look for the other two. Perhaps one or both were removed during previous grooming, but it pays to look.



# Some Thoughts on Starting Leaves and Separating Plantlets

by Barbara Pershing

If you have plantlets that aren't quite ready to separate from the mother leaf and the pot seems crowded, carefully remove all from the pot and remove one or two of the weaker plantlets without disturbing the root ball too much. Put a bit of fresh soil mix in the bottom of the pot and replace the plantlets and mother leaf into the pot, or into a bit larger pot if you want a lot of babies from this leaf. Give the babies more time to grow before separating.

Have you ever put down leaves that seem to sit there, and sit there, and sit there without showing any babies? The plantlets come from the cut end of the petioles, and if the leaf is too far down into the pot, the plantlets have a hard time getting through the soil. Carefully remove a bit of the soil from the top and add a bit of fresh soil to the bottom of the pot. Occasionally, the mother leaf will continue to grow and

take energy away from the plantlets. Cutting off the top of the mother leaf will stop the leaf from growing, and the energy will go to the plantlets. Sometimes all of the energy goes into making roots instead of plantlets (one of the problems with using rooting hormones). Give this leaf more time to produce babies.

When you are ready to separate the plantlets, let the soil partially dry out before you attempt to divide them. There is less root damage if the soil isn't too wet. Place the potted plantlets in a covered tray for about a week and water with unfertilized water; too much fertilizer can burn the roots. Groom the young plants as soon as they are established.

From *The Bloomin' Violet*,  
publication of the Cedar Valley AVC

# In Search of New Violets



**Dr. Jeff Smith**  
The Indiana Academy  
Ball State University  
Muncie, IN 47306  
*JSmith4@bsu.edu*

One of the most rewarding experiences in growing African violets is starting plants from seed. The seed may have been hybridized by you, a friend, or the seed may be purchased from a commercial vendor. No matter the source, each seedling is a new genetic individual possessing traits that will be slightly different from any other plant. Here are some tips in germinating the very tiny African violet seeds.

1. Seed must be germinated in a closed container with high humidity. Choose a clear dish or shallow bowl and cover the top with food wrap held in place by a rubber band. Closed containers used for rooting leaves are also satisfactory.
2. The germination medium can be made of various materials. A fine grade of vermiculite mixed with some perlite works well. Your favorite soil mixture or leaf rooting mixture will also work in most cases, as long as there are no large pieces.
3. Sterilizing the germination medium with heat is a good idea to prevent fungal problems such as damping-off-disease.
4. Break the seedpod open on a small sheet of paper that has been folded once to create a crease. The paper will allow you to see the seeds and the crease will give you some control in sowing the seeds onto the germination medium.
5. Viable seeds are very tiny and usually appear black and glossy. Seeds that are light brown or dull looking will seldom germinate. When the paper is tilted, viable seeds tend to "roll" while non-viable seeds "scoot" over the paper.
6. Sow the seeds evenly onto the germination medium by gently tapping the paper. Adding a little fine sand will help separate the seeds and prevent sowing the seeds too thickly.
7. DO NOT COVER THE SEEDS. They must remain on the germination medium's surface in order to grow.
8. Water the seeds gently with a mist bottle or with a fine

spray. Use only water. Fertilizer will stimulate the growth of algae that will choke out the seedlings.

9. Be sure that the container is labeled with the parentage of the seeds and the sowing date.
10. Place the seeds under a bright light. Bottom heating the container will also stimulate seed germination.
11. Viable seed should germinate within 7-28 days but may take longer. Look for tiny green specks to appear on the surface of the germination medium. Keep moist by misting when necessary to prevent drying.
12. Albino seedlings from variegated crosses may need a weak dose of nitrogen fertilizer to green them up. Pure white seedlings will not survive.

**Q:** *Are green edges inherited as a dominant trait like 'raspberry' or 'geneva' edges?*

**A:** I do not have any direct data on crosses with green edges. However, all other "edge" traits such as raspberry, geneva, or colored edges are genetic dominants to a lack of edges. I would suspect green edges might inherit the same way. The width of the green edge will likely depend on the number of edge factors the plant has. If both parents have green edges, about 25% of the offspring should have two doses of the edge factor and have wider edges than single dose plants.

**Q:** *Can I create a coral red chimera by crossing 'Tomahawk' with a chimera flower?*

**A:** I doubt that you will get coral red chimera plants with this cross. Chimera flowers are the result of genetic accidents and are not known to be inherited in offspring produced from seeds from a chimera parent. Most likely, all of the plants will be solids and will not have the chimera strips.

The coral red flower color would be hard to obtain because this color is a double genetic recessive. You would have to cross 'Tomahawk' onto a fuchsia red or pink, then cross the F1 offspring together, or backcross to 'Tomahawk' to get the coral red color back out.

**Q:** *Can you suggest a plan that would produce a plant that has red, white and blue flowers?*

**A:** For all of you American patriots out there, here is what I would suggest. Try crossing a plant with raspberry edges with a plant with a blue thumbprint pattern. Both raspberry edges and thumbprints are genetic dominants. About 25% of the offspring should have both traits together in the flowers. Because raspberry edges is linked to red color and always shows as pink/red no matter the color of the rest of the flower, you should now have the red and blue colors together. Many of the thumbprint plants will develop a white center in their flowers when grown under warm conditions. If the pattern comes together correctly, you should get a flower with a white center and blue petals that are edged in red (from the raspberry edges). For the truest "red" try to get the colors in the coral shades (a genetic recessive).

For those of you who want four colors in the flowers, try doing the above cross using a plant that is a fantasy with raspberry edges or a parent that is a fantasy thumbprint. This should produce plants with fantasy thumbprint flowers with raspberry edges. The centers of the flowers will still be white, but the blue areas of the petals should now be pink flecked with blue and surrounded with a raspberry edge. Good Luck!

**Q:** *In a previous column, you suggested using single or semi-double flowers because double flowers are often sterile. I have two seedpods on a plant with double flowers. Does this mean that the seeds will not germinate?*

**A:** What I was referring to is that double flowers make their extra petals by converting the stamens and sometimes the pistils into petals. This often means that they fail to produce pollen and are sexually sterile. This problem does not pertain to the seeds. If you've managed to get seed pods, the seeds should be fertile and germinate as long as the pods stay on the plant a minimum of four months. You can expect most of the offspring from this cross to have double flowers.

**Q:** *I like flowers with lots of rays, dark eyes, or white eyes. If I cross two plants together with these patterns, what will I get for offspring?*

**A:** Patterns in African violet flowers are usually dominant over solid colored flowers. If both parents have some type of rays or eyes, I'd expect a large number of offspring to have flowers with some sort of patterns. What is uncertain is how two different patterns (such as rays and eyes) might interact when combined together. They might cancel each other out and give solid colored flowers, or they might magnify each other and give mostly white areas in the flower center. Either way, the major of the offspring should have patterned flowers.

## Thirteen Dos and Don'ts for African Violets

This article first appeared in an issue of the GSN magazine dated May/June 1969. Written by Alma Wright, late President of AVSA and the first Editor of the African Violet Magazine, the information is as pertinent to growing in 2002 as it was thirty-three years ago.

### Dos

1. Experiment until you are successful, if you have "problems" growing African violets.
2. Inspect plants daily.
3. Keep the soil lightly and evenly moist - water faithfully.
4. Use warm or room temperature water only.
5. Feed regularly. Give small amounts of plant food more often.
6. Give them enough good light. Light promotes bloom.
7. Try different exposures if you have no blooms. A change in windows may be helpful.
8. Use a pasteurized potting mix containing plenty of organic matter. The mixture should be light and easily penetrated.
9. Provide good drainage.
10. Furnish humidity and ventilation. A buoyant atmosphere is healthful.
11. Cleanse leaves with warm water when they need it.
12. Remove spent blooms and stems. Take off old and damaged leaves.
13. Be watchful for evidence of pests and diseases. Isolate all

new plants for several weeks before mixing them in with your plants.

### Don'ts

1. Don't overwater. The soil should never be soggy wet.
2. Don't allow plants to get bone dry and then flood with water. Root rot can result.
3. Don't water with cold water.
4. Don't let plants remain in direct sunlight for too long.
5. Don't overpot.
6. Don't use a heavy mix that drains slowly.
7. Don't expose to cold drafts.
8. Don't subject to temperatures lower than 55°. Avoid sudden changes in temperature.
9. Don't overlook the need for fresh air. A dry, stagnant atmosphere is harmful.
10. Don't over fertilize. Feed more often with much weaker solutions of plant food.
11. Don't fail to read the manufacturer's directions on all packages of plant food or sprays before using.
12. Don't expect plants to flower without adequate light. Good light is essential to bloom.
13. Don't give up! Keep trying. You will develop a successful African violet growing technique if you work at it.

*Provided by the African Violet News, Official Journal of the AV-Gesneriad Society of NSW, Inc.*

# A Family Portrait



**Georgene Albrecht**  
101 Oak Heights Drive  
Oakdale, PA 15071

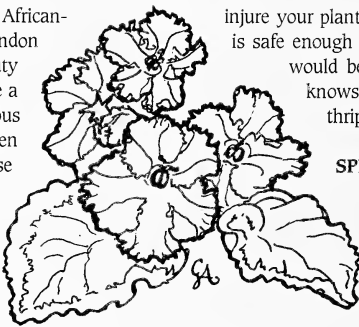
This is one of the few chimera African-violets in my collection. From Lyndon Lyon's Greenhouses, Inc., this beauty looks so perky and festive it should be a gift wrap print. The foliage is a luscious cream variegation on the darkest green leaves. The blooms are dark cerise-rose stripes on a snow white, extremely ruffled pansy-type flower. A real wow of a combination.

I would like to thank Paul Sorano and his staff for producing fabulous plants. They tell me that his new *Saintpaulia* 'Strawberry Daiquiri' is selling well. It has pink blooms with a rose speckling on the edges of each petal with variegated foliage below. Nice. They also told me about three new *Streptocarpus* that will soon be available. First, *S. 'Pouchie'* which is a bright coral with coral in the lower petals. The throat has stripes that go from maroon to almost black. Then there is *S. 'Spooky'* which blooms darkest purple, almost black velvet in texture. The upper throat is splashed with plum color. The third one is named *S. 'Jules'* having a fantasy bloom of purple with magenta and plum streaks radiating from the upper lobes. Can't wait to get that one. Lyndon Lyon's web site is [www.lyndonlyon.com](http://www.lyndonlyon.com). It is great. We can count on him to have a great display of plants at convention. Thanks.

## AHEAD OF THRIPS

This information is from the internet and although yours truly has not tried this spray, it is worth passing along. Several growers have successfully gotten rid of thrips by making a spray from RID Maximum Strength Shampoo. Now, this is made for killing head lice. Do this at your own risk. Make a spray by adding one-half teaspoon to a quart of water and misting your plants. It is supposed to be mild and not

injure your plants. Of course, don't breathe that mist. If it is safe enough to shampoo on human heads, I guess it would be fairly mild on our plants. And heaven knows we need all the help we can get against thrips.



*Saintpaulia* "Red Satin Bows"

## SPHAGNUM MOSS

New growers are often confused by the references to "moss" because it comes in many forms. "Sphagnum Moss", as I see it, is most commonly available as a compressed bale. It is sold by the cubic foot at nurseries and improvement centers everywhere as a soil additive. This is the

sphagnum used in most Cornell type soil mixes. Extremely fine grinds are used for sowing delicate seeds because it stops damp-off and other trouble. "Whole" sphagnum refers to the unprocessed natural, whole fiber of the plant. It is too expensive to use in a soil mix. I use it to wrap plant cuttings and injured root systems that are in "trouble". It prevents rot and seems to promote root growth.

Sphagnum peat moss is broken down or more decomposed from other areas of the bogs. It is usually a darker color. During the summer when the sun is very hot, I place the dampened sphagnum moss in a black plastic garbage bag and let it lie on concrete for a day or two, turning occasionally. I don't know if this really sterilizes it, but it makes me feel better.

If sphagnum, in any consistency, has dried completely, dampen it with hot water and add a few drops of detergent that has no degreasers. If you have an open sore on your hands, be sure to wear gloves so you do not get a bacterial infection from the moss.

New Zealand moss is similar to Canadian moss, but the fibers seem larger. It has the same properties but seems to break down more rapidly. My orchid growing friends report



every six months if their mix has New Zealand moss.

Another moss is the "sheet moss" which is also available in nurseries. It is used to cover dish gardens or to hold soil into wire planters. Do not use this for horticultural purposes as it is marketed for decorative use only. It may contain dye pigments and even fumigating materials.

Many "Michigan peats" are decomposed, heavy sedges used for lawn soil conditioning. It is also used in some inexpensive African violet mix soil. If the bag is heavy and the contents are blackish, lighten it at least 50% with perlite or vermiculite.

#### VERMICULITE NEWS

We now hear that there is no shortage of vermiculite. Well, then, where is it? Some local suppliers say that Therm-o-rock brand is guaranteed safe to use. I have not seen any shipments

locally, and this is prime planting time here, April. I will let you know what happens next.

#### REMEMBERING

Do you remember some fantastic hybrids by a lady named Pat Tracey from Canada? Reading an email from John Beaulieu made me smile. He said that he ran into her in Barrie, Ontario where she is busy with a party store. Remember her 'Fairy Tales' and 'Falling Snow'? She is into orchids, I hear. I love them too, but they just do not produce the bloom compared to gesneriads. One square inch of space provided a gesneriad gives 100 times the amount of bloom. By the way, John produces a nice newsletter called African-violet and Gesneriad NEWS. Send \$15 to John Beaulieu Productions, Box 118, Midhurst, ON L0L 1X9 Canada.



## Portable Potting Center

by Doris Shepherd • Mentone, CA

This is the "helper" that makes it possible for me to grow on the average of two hundred African violets in my home.

My husband built this portable utility potting center. The top is a four-foot Formica counter top. The sides, back, and bottom are made of half-inch plywood. It stands thirty-three inches high, without casters, and is twenty-four inches deep.

The partitions holding the busboy trays are sixteen inches apart, and the trays are approximately seven inches apart vertically. The heavy-duty casters make the unit very mobile, and the handles on each end are very convenient.

This handy potting center makes taking care of my African violets a pleasure.



# Could I Have Mites?

by Nancy Manozzi

ME, MITES, no way! I'd been growing African violets for almost thirty years and never had mites. But why were my plants doing such weird things? Some of my plants had small, tight centers. Many had multiple, off-centered crowns. Some of the center leaves were a light, sickly green. Some of the leaf blades had an unusual pale or pinkish appearance at the point of junction with the stalk. Others had no centers. Some stopped growing while others turned gray and mushy. Some died. But all were especially hairy. These are all symptoms of mites.

I blamed these problems on the soil, on the fertilizer, on the water, whatever I could think of. I was losing plants, mostly plantlets, by the hundreds. I had to do something. So I called John Cook of Cape Cod Violetry and yelled "Help!" He suggested I take some plants to the University of Massachusetts Cranberry Extension Service and have an inspector look with a high-powered microscope.

Sure enough, broad mites were discovered! I had obviously been in denial. Where did I pick them up? I had been complaining about problems since June, right after our spring show. Foolishly, I had taken home sale plants that hadn't sold. These plants had been crowded in with hundreds of other plants. I didn't isolate, treat them, or do any of the things I tell other people to do. Careless, cocky, lazy...you name it.

Let me tell you a little about broad mites. The males live five to nine days, the females eight to thirteen. They reproduce at a terribly fast rate - about 200,000,000 in three months! Mites are unlikely to travel to pots kept three inches apart. Mites are spread by contact - your hands, your watering cans, so it's important to wash your hands after handling a plant. Leaves will curl down, if it's broad mite, not up, as with cyclamen mite.

Broad mites feed on the underneath sides of the African violet leaves. Young plants will be hurt more than older ones that have strong outer leaves on which mites can't subsist.

They feast on the young, tender leaves on plantlets or crowns of established plants. The hairy appearance is the result of the sucking of the plant juices out of the leaves which causes the hair to show up more - they're not actually growing more hair. Broad mites move faster than cyclamen mites, don't like the light, and are sensitive to heat. Mites are in a class with spiders, scorpions, and ticks. They are less than 1/100 of an inch, white in larval stage, pale, almost transparent in adult stage, and invisible to the naked eye.

The control measure is either a spray or dunking with Avid, Sanmite or Kelthane, three times, about a week apart. Then, treat monthly, as part of your preventative program. It's advisable to alternate chemicals as mites can build up a tolerance. For those of you that don't wish to use chemicals, some people have had success with the hot water bath treatment. This requires complete immersion of plant, pot and soil in water held at exactly 110° for fifteen minutes.

Isolate, isolate, isolate, any new plant you bring home, no matter where it comes from! And if you notice any problem, of any kind, either discard or treat. When you acquire a violet from ANYONE, club member, friend, whomever, and discover a problem, please tell that person. No one wants to share insects with someone else. That person, obviously, didn't know their plants were infected. Don't feel you're hurting someone's feelings - we'd rather know right away so that we could correct the situation before it spreads throughout an entire collection!

My story has a happy ending. Seven weeks after "diagnosis," I brought leaves from ten different trays of my growing area back down to the University of Mass. Cranberry Extension Service. The inspector found no evidence of mites this time. My plants are looking happy and healthy again, and so am I!

From *Ye Bay Stater*, publication of the Bay State AVS

## Attention All Members:

The Annual Library Message, listing the Slide Programs and Videos available through the AVSA Office will appear in the September/October 2002 AVM.

# How I Pack Plants for Shipping

by Laurie A.E. O'Meara  
*Artist and Horticulturist*  
Cape Cod, MA

When I needed to develop a reliable packing method for shipping plants, I decided to research how it had been done in the past by others.

The first place I looked was in the only book I had at the time, Helen Van Pelt Wilson's *The African Violet Book*, of which I now own several copies. The 1970 soft cover edition, on pages 175 to 179, explains the traditional method for packing and shipping plants.

My second information resource came from commercial and non-commercial vendors when I received my own plant orders.

It is very disappointing to look forward to new plants and have them arrive in a heap of dirt and leaves. It didn't happen every time, but it did happen. I didn't want the plants that I was shipping to arrive in that condition.

So, with these experiences in hand, I came up with my own method for shipping plants. I have had great success in packing plants this way. I am positive that other people have methods that are comparable and just as successful, as I have received wonderful, protected shipments. This method works well for me though, and it may work for you too.

## Wrapping the plant:

1. Tear or cut a strip of paper towel and place it in the pot, on the surface of the soil. Ensure that all soil is covered, slightly tamp it down so that it is firm, but don't get too carried away. The purpose is to just hold the soil in place.
2. Cut a square of waxed paper, approximately 6" x 6" for pots under four inches, and 8" x 8" for larger pots. I cut a bunch and stack them. Cut into the square halfway, to the center from one side, and in the center, cut a triangle the size that will just allow the plant crown to fit within. Place the waxed paper around the crown using the cut side to maneuver under the plant. The waxed paper should cover the paper towel, but not any of the lower leaves. Fold or gather the paper down around the pot and hold it in place with an elastic band.
3. Using a sheet of newspaper folded in half lengthwise (approximately 15 x 20 inches), lay the plant down sideways on the paper, along the short edge. There should be at least four inches above the upper leaves of the plant. Slowly roll the plant, while gently guiding the leaves upward, so that you are wrapping the plant into a "tube" of newspaper. Secure the bottom edges with tape, and tape the paper tube closed about two inches from the bottom of the pot.

4. Setting the plant down as if it weren't wrapped, fill the top opening of the paper tube with foam peanuts. Gently work them down around the leaves. Fold the top of the paper tube over and secure with tape.

There! Now you have a plant with leaves that are protected from cold or heat and breakage, and whose soil won't think it's in zero gravity.

## Placing the wrapped plants in a box:

There are two methods. One is to stand the wrapped plants up in a box and surround them firmly with foam peanuts. I use another way, as I never seem to have tall boxes.

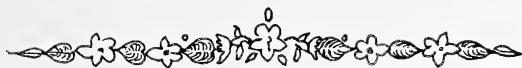
1. Place approximately two inches of foam peanuts in the bottom of a box. Lay the wrapped plants down, making sure the top of one plant is next to the bottom of another, to balance their weight in shipping. I stack smaller plants this way, alternating tops and bottoms, so that a secure pyramid of plants is the result. For larger plants, I usually place two per box.
2. Fill the box with foam peanuts, making sure to get them in all the nooks and crannies, so no jostling occurs during travel.

Viola!

When winter shipping, I use housing insulation. I do use a dust-type mask and gloves when handling. I cut a piece to fit, and it gets placed on top of the first layer of foam peanuts that go into the box. Then I add the plants, surround with foam peanuts as above, and take another cut-to-fit piece of housing insulation and place it over the plants, tucking it in on all sides. Some people cut pieces to completely line the box on all sides, and I have done that too, depending on how many plants are inside, and how cold it is. As long as the plants are surrounded by housing insulation, I feel they are protected. I place foam peanuts on top of the top insulation layer if there are any gaps or spaces.

For shipping leaves, I do everything the same except the initial wrapping. Bagged leaves are wrapped in newspaper with foam peanuts in their wrap, right next to the baggie. The result is a paper wrap that looks something like a calzone-type sandwich. This gets placed exactly like the plants are in the box.

Happy Packing!



# AVSA VISITS OUR



*White House*



*White House*



*Arlington National Cemetery*



*Winston Goretsky*



*Fred Packer & Agatha Garrison*



*Kate Dennis*



*Heather Borck & Doris Weaver*



*Barbara Elkin & Byron Borck*



*Bill Price, Jenny Daugereau, Amy Sanders,  
Winston Goretsky*



*Olive Ma Robinson*



*Charlie Yandolino & Toni Hedges*



*Jeremy McCray*



*Paul Sorano*



*Sue Ann Blackmon*

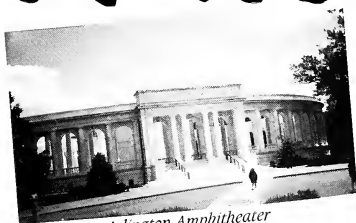


*Adrienne Stringer*



*JoAnn Schrimsher*

# NATION'S CAPITOL



*Arlington Amphitheater*



*Capitol Building*



*Washington Monument*



*Tomb of the Unknowns*



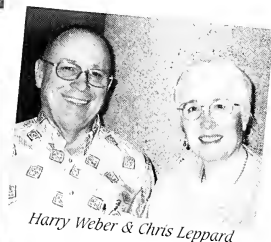
*Ruth & Myra Torres*



*Chris Stevens*



*Pat Wilson*



*Harry Weber & Chris Leppard*



*Diane Abramson & Bev Promersberger*



*Florence Murphy*



*Will & Ruth Loomis*



*Phyllis Enos*



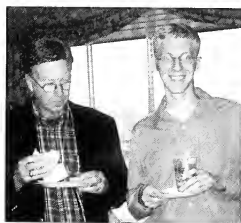
*Ruth Rumsey, Congressman Nick Lampson, Jerry Daugereau*



*Lil Banchik*



*Elmer Gorden*



*Charles & Christopher Ramser*



*Ruth Warren & Bill Foster*



*Chris Brenner*

# Neem Oil

by Sue Hodges • Australia

At our local show, there was quite a bit of interest shown in the Neem Oil that was part of a commercial display. The claims that were made for it seemed miraculous, altogether too good to be true, so I decided to do a little checking up before I parted with any money. I was very skeptical, but it seems that many of the claims may just be true.

The Neem tree is native to Africa and Asia and is related to the mahogany and to the cedar (*Melia azedarach*), which is often grown in Australian gardens. Native peoples have used parts of the tree for medicinal purposes and for pest control for centuries. The main active ingredient, Azadirachtin, is found in the bark, leaves, and heartwood, but the highest concentration is in the seeds. Neem oil also contains a number of other compounds, some unidentified.

However, it seems that the oil has only small amounts of azadirachtin. Azadirachtin needs to be added to the oil for it to be a really effective insecticide; otherwise, it is merely a repellent with some insecticidal and fungicidal properties.

The first commercial neem insecticide was registered in the USA in 1985, and since then other products have been developed. It is not registered as an agricultural chemical in Australia. Neem oil is biodegradable and is considered to be practically non-toxic to humans. Azadirachtin is relatively harmless to spiders, butterflies, and insects such as bees that pollinate crops, ladybugs that consume aphids, and wasps that act as parasites on various crop pests. This is because the Azadirachtin needs to be eaten to be effective.

Azadirachtin works as an insect growth regulator and, as such, is most effective against immature insects. It usually influences the hormonal system of the insect so that it cannot molt and progress to the next stage of its life cycle. The insect then dies. It can also deter insects from laying eggs and there is sterilization of some pests. It will kill some insects on contact at various stages of the life cycle, including the egg and larval stage. However, do not expect a quick kill - there is no "knock-down effect", and repeated applications may be necessary. Neem oil can kill some insects by asphyxiation as other oils do.

Azadirachtin can be used to control whiteflies, aphids, thrips, fungus gnats, caterpillars, beetles, mushroom flies, mealybugs, leafminers, and moths. It was suggested that Azadirachtin would also be effective against spider mites and root knot nematodes. I did not find any definite statement that it would kill soil mealy bugs, although it has some systemic action through soil drenches and has been shown to kill some soil grubs.

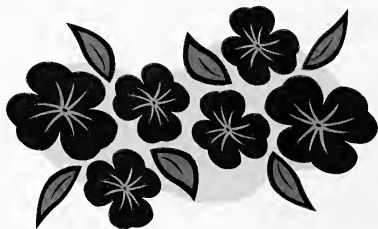
Some pests are repulsed by the taste of plants treated with neem. It has a bitter taste, which may stop insects, especially grasshoppers, feeding on a plant. It is also said to repel snails and crickets. It is said to give control of powdery mildew.

Foliar spray persists for between five and seven days in outdoor conditions, although there be some systemic effect. As a fungicide a single spray has been effective but spraying at 7 to 14 day intervals did not damage roses. Avoid spraying in very hot conditions; sunlight shining on wet leaves may burn. Do not spray outdoors if rain is likely. Newly transplanted plants with limited root development should not be treated.

Some plants are sensitive to neem including impatiens, fuchsias, hibiscus, some roses, and some carnations. Tender young growth and plants under stress may be damaged by neem, and there is very little information as to how it will affect gesneriads. It may damage flowers of African violets, and it is recommended that you test on a plant. If the leaves or flowers wilt within a few hours, you rinse the plant with clean water.

I do intend trying neem oil on my gesneriads, as I am very impressed by the claims made for it. However, I have not used it yet and I cannot stress too much that you should only experiment on a few plants. Please do not use a new product on your whole collection until you are sure it is not going to cause damage. It really still sounds too good to be true, and I wonder why we have not heard more about it if it is so wonderful!

*From The African Violet News, Official journal of the  
AV-Gesneriad Society of NSW, Inc.*



# Decapitation Isn't Murder

Yes, that's right. If you cut off the head of an African violet, you aren't killing the plant. Honest. Actually, you may be saving its life!

Decapitating, or rather, cutting off the crown of an African violet can be done at various times for different reasons. For example, maybe you have an older plant, one that used to bloom its head off constantly. Then, slowly, over the years, it hasn't shown its usual youthful vigor. Try cutting off the crown, leaving the center three or four leaves and maybe an extra row of leaves, alone. Remove all other leaves, removing the root system and re-rooting this crown in your usual mix. You can put a plastic baggie over the crown and pot to increase humidity if your conditions generally support this action.

Some people love to increase humidity for re-rooting crowns and for rooting leaves. Experiment and see what you - and your plants - like in your conditions.

Another reason you may want to cut off the crown of a plant is that the plant may have a long neck. As scary as it may seem, you probably won't harm the plant at all by doing this. If the plant has a long neck, you don't really have any other choice. A long neck is when the bottom leaves are no longer even with the pot's lip. If the leaves droop down, or a neck is visible an inch or more above the soil line, you probably have long neck surgery in your near future.

I re-root the crowns of all plants that come into my home. I prefer leaves, but if I get a plant home, the soil mix or medium gets thrown out immediately, as does the plant's roots. I'm serious. And they don't go on my compost pile, either. I don't know if the previous owner has used systemics in the soil or any other kind of biocide, and I'm not letting poisons into my compost pile. Nor will I take the risk of soil meales or other pests getting into my collection. I don't think my friends and fellow club members are bad growers. Quite the contrary - but soil meales and other pests can get into anyone's collection, and they are frequently passed on unknowingly. Even vendors have troubles with them.

Removing the roots and soil medium from the plant eliminates a few more ways a pest can get into my collection. Plus - new arrivals are left under a dome in another room for six months (yes six months). Leaves are dunked in a bleach solution and then they get to go into the plant room, under a dome.

Do you have a plant you love - or at least like, but don't have room for it right now? You can either remove all but the center three to four leaves and put a bag over it, cut off the crown leaving only three to four leaves, put the crown in your normal potting mix, put a plastic baggie over it, and put it in a partially lit location. I know this sounds drastic. I did it once to a plant I really wasn't overly ecstatic about. I cut off the crown, ruthlessly removed all but the center three leaves, popped a plastic bag over it, looped a rubber band around the pot, holding the plastic bag in place, and left it in the guest room in a place that never got direct sunlight, and was always in partially lit shade. Then I forgot all about it. For months. I "found" it again - and it was fine. It hadn't grown much - no new leaves, and the center leaves were only slightly larger - but it was alive and very vibrant in color. When I removed the bag, I found it was well rooted. With the bag gone, I put it in light and gave it water. It exploded in growth and threw up blooms immediately.

My potting mix is always moist - so I don't add any water when I re-root a crown. If your potting mix is dry, you may need to add water. Be careful though - a re-rooting crown has no roots so it can't drink up water in the soil. If there is too much moisture, the crown you hope to root will rot. If you do add a small amount of water, you can add a few drops of Super Thrive to the water. Some growers feel that this will vastly aid the plant in re-rooting and thriving in general.

Please note that whenever I cut the crown of a plant off, I always put down a leaf or two for insurance.

*From the Newsletter of the Fantasy Violeteers AVC, CA*



# MOVING SOON

by Cathy Carter

Hmmm, the plants, too? Don't let the movers touch them! I repotted as many of my African violets as I could several weeks before the move. I wanted to make them smaller to fit into the boxes better and strengthen them for the being out from under the lights and closed up in boxes for at least a week. Older foliage fades and molds faster.

Make the movers take the light stands apart for you. Tell them **THEY** are GOING TO PUT THEM BACK TOGETHER, along with putting the beds back together, etc., before they leave the new house. So they had better NOT put fluorescent light fixtures and light stand parts in unmarked boxes with other stuff. All bolts need to go into Ziplock baggies and be put in YOUR PURSE. It's terrible to have to buy new bolts before putting the light stands back together because the old ones are in an unlabeled, unpacked box.

I use banana boxes for the plants because they have hand holds and those nice air holes on the sides to keep down mold and mildew. Spray them with House and Garden spray, or something similar, to kill any mites and bugs that were on the bananas or other produce in the grocery store. Store produce folks will save these boxes for you.

I close the boxes up in huge 55-gallon size black plastic bags, spraying them one at a time as each is put in the bag. I close them up for fumigating for several days before use. Three or four banana boxes will fit into a 55-gallon bag. Last time, I just left the boxes in the garage for a couple of weeks in the plastic bags until I was ready to pack the plants. This kept the boxes out of my way and kept them "clean".

You can put small boxes, like muffin or cake mix boxes, or get pizza boxes or upside down soft drink flats to put in the bottom of the banana boxes. Cut an "X" in these to insert the pots into so they won't tip over during travel. Putting a small plastic bag over the bottom of the pot will enable you to remove the lid and water the plants.

Several years ago, I came across some white plastic plant holder flats that had been used to hold and ship terra cotta pots. They had two and a half inch round "wells" that a baby food jar would just exactly fit inside. I use those to pack my minis and semi-minis. Two of these carrier flats fit inside a

banana box very well. I leave the plants in their tiny solo cup "pots" sitting in the top of the baby food jar and stand the jars in the round spaces in the carrier flat. This does not make it too tall for the box lid to close.

Tape a piece of paper over the opening in the top of each banana box so sunlight through your car windows won't burn the plants in the top box when stacked in your car. Never mind trying ahead of time to guess which box will be the top box when you are shoving all the varied junk into your car at the last minute.

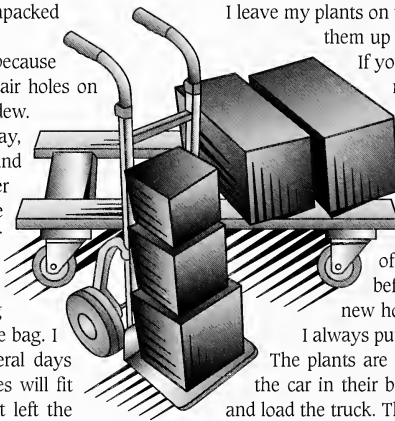
Be sure to pick all the bloom stalks off the plants - they'll just mold closed up in the boxes. You can spray the inside of the box of plants with a fungicide, too, and let it dry before putting the lid on, if you want to help avoid mold and mildew. I leave my plants on the baby food jar reservoirs when I pack them up so I don't have to water them en route.

If you use the plastic reservoirs, you can use masking tape to attach the pots to the reservoirs so they won't tip over, fall off the top, or roll around. Some of the vining gesneriads were nestled into shredded paper in a banana box with a plastic bag around the pot. The reservoir made them too tall for the lid of the box. I did have to water them twice before they got back on the stands in the new house two weeks later.

I always put the car in the garage to load the plants. The plants are out from under lights and closed up in the car in their boxes while the movers pack the house and load the truck. That way I can pay attention to supervising the movers.

For this last move, I had twenty-seven boxes of plants in the minivan. You may want to seriously reduce your collection as the moving date approaches and donate plants to club sales, etc. This is not the time to get new plants, since you won't be able to isolate them properly. If you are moving out of state, please be sure to check the regulation on moving plants across the state lines. Houseplants in clean potting soil usually are easy to get a plant inspection certificate from the Agriculture office near you for the move.

Plan ahead and have a great move!



*From the Dixie News*

JULY • AUGUST 2002



# Vintage Violets



**Barbara Elkin**  
*Vintage Violets Committee*  
 2855 Gayle Lane  
 Auburn, CA 95602-9674  
*email: bjabar@earthlink.net*

## More Things Masculine

I've always considered myself to be of average intelligence. In this day of electronics, I'm beginning to have doubts. Computers, cell phones, maps from satellites, etc. have greatly confused my generation. I do have a computer and I do e-mail. Now a FAX machine has reared it's ugly head on my desk. It stares at me with it's one green eye. It was put on earth to plague me with it's silly smile. (The slot where the paper comes out). I'm positive it's masculine. It doesn't work, and I can't get it to work. Crossing wires, reading and re-reading instructions, lighting candles on Sunday has come to naught. Like I said, it must be masculine. I guess I will have to have my twelve year old grandson show me how to make it work. The moral of this story is to not send me any faxed data. I love e-mail.

address and telephone number. Not all of my readers are on cyberspace.

I have received several notes regarding the names of plants sent in to me. If you don't send the correct name, I can't find it. Sports are also hard to come by. Some chimeras are in circulation and others are not. Make sure you use the whole name of the plant. An example is 'Granger's Wonderland'. Or, if you want 'Reed's Pink Lemonade', give the whole name. There are other plants out there with the name Pink Lemonade. Whisper Blue is 'Lyon's Whisper Blue', etc. I had a request for Chiffon Marguerite and it turned out to be 'Chiffon Masquerade'. I think you get the idea.

Last but not least, thank you very much Connie for the listing of 'Spring Deb'. Like 'Purple Crest', it was thought to be lost.

If you do e-mail me with a request, please add your street

## AVSA Most Wanted Vintage Violets

Blue Wasp  
Country Lilacs

Lisa Louise  
Lovely Wasp

Rhapsodie Dolly  
Tie Dye or Tye Dyed

## Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene J. Buck • 17235 N. 106th Avenue • Sun City, AZ 85373-1958

Donations received from February 1, 2002 - March 31, 2002

The Vancouver AV & Gesneriad Society, Canada.....\$25.00	Albuquerque AV Club, Albuquerque, NM.....\$25.00	Margaret Mallett, Wilson, LA.....\$5.00
Hoosier AVS, Crown Point, IN.....25.00	The Violet Patch of	Gertrude M. Koch, Clayton, MO.....5.00
<i>In remembrance of the now</i>	South Florida, Ft. Lauderdale, FL.....25.00	Mae Dodson, Baltimore, MD.....5.00
<i>disbanded Indiana State Society</i>	The AVS of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA.....25.00	Geneva Stagg, Germantown, TN.....8.00
Hoosier AVS, Crown Point, IN.....10.00	<i>In memory of Clyde Witcher</i>	Virginia Barthelemy, Tampa, FL.....5.00
<i>In memory of our member Iain Paterson</i>	Mary and Morgan Simmons, Evanston, IL.....50.00	Grace Ferry, Transfer, PA.....5.00
Carlbud AVS, Fallbrook, CA.....10.00	<i>In memory of George L. Landgren</i>	Joyce Villa, Albany, NY.....10.00
<i>In memory of June Strong</i>	Union County Chapter AVS, Union County, NJ.....5.00	Jean M. Rogers, New Bedford, MA.....3.00
Alice Easter, North Wales, PA.....10.00	<i>In lieu of Judge's fee for Joe Palagonia</i>	Colin Dimon, Vernal, NY.....10.00
<i>In memory of Clyde Witcher</i>	G. E. Harmon, New York, NY.....5.00	Susan R. Polley, Tucson, AZ.....10.00
Mary Parker, Sandy, OR.....5.00	Berry Lewis, Lawrenceville, GA.....5.00	Lois C. Foger, Liberal, MO.....5.00
Karen Plourde, Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA.....100.00	Edward Hill, Esko, MN.....5.00	Thomas A. May, Blanding, UT.....30.00
Pat Montgomery, San Jose, CA.....10.00	Beverly Volk, Allentown, PA.....5.00	Amethyst AVC, Manchester, MO.....10.00
Donald Ferguson, Montgomery, AL.....5.00	Doris Schenck, Beloit, WI.....10.00	William E. Reed, Redford, MI.....5.00
M K O AVS, Joplin, MO.....10.00	Doris J. Jolley, Batesville, MS.....5.00	Leopoldo Leon, Miami, FL.....25.00
F. Eleanor Mattaliano, Trinton Falls, NJ.....10.00	Lois Szostak, Melville, NY.....5.00	Roseline Fujimori, Honolulu, HI.....10.00
AVS of Minnesota, Saint Paul, MN.....15.00	Joan McKerr, Northport, NY.....10.00	Lynn Milgrom, Richmond, VA.....10.00
<i>In memory of Helen Flapcaik</i>	Richard A. Nicholas, Denton, TX.....10.00	Frances Carson, Spring Hill, FL.....10.00
Tristate AV Council, Bordentown, NJ.....25.00	Marcia Tonchick, Winfield, IL.....5.00	Barbara H. Werness, Coon Rapids, MN.....10.00
Arnold W. Mueller, Vista, CA.....50.00	Daniel Ringhand, New Glarus, WI.....10.00	Carol Irvine, Batavia, IL.....5.00
Onalee H. McEwen, Houston, TX.....10.00	Kay C. Schroeder, Clarksburg, MD.....10.00	Sandy Officer, Bloomington, MN.....10.00
Andrea Pirone, Poulsoho, WA.....5.00	Tatiana AVS, Corona del Mar, CA.....10.00	Dianne Lovett, Dallas, TX.....10.00
Cecelia Winfield, North Brunswick, NJ.....2.00	Daniel R. Miller, Wausau, WI.....10.00	Oshkosh Violet Society, Omro, WI.....30.00
Nancy Twaskas, Elizabeth, NJ.....10.00	Janice A. Burns, Hanover Park, IL.....20.00	Ovella Ruth Hall, Hot Springs, AR.....10.00
BAJA Oregon Bloomers, Redding, CA.....20.00	Valery Smirnov, Ukraine.....5.00	Joan K. Wilson, Theresa, WI.....10.00
Ventura County AVS, Ventura, CA.....10.00	Cecelia Seidel, Hayward, CA.....5.00	

# AVSA HONOR ROLL OF AFRICAN VIOLETS

Floyd Lawson  
1100 Huntington Dr. #21  
Arcadia, CA 91007

## 1990

Boca Grande #5112 (S. Williams)  
Emilie Savage #5445 (Eyerdom)  
Frances Young #5890 (Pittman)  
Hart's Snow White #5590 (A. Hart)  
Melodie Kimi #8100 (Sunnyside/Levy)  
Ming Blue #5823 (Eyerdom)  
Pay Dirt #4988 (P. Tracey)  
Wrangler's Jealous Heart #6225 (W. Smith)  
Wrangler's Pink Patches #6230 (W. Smith)

## 1991

Mickey Mouse n/r (Inpijn)  
Nortex's Snowfall Haven #6045 (B. Johnson)  
Nortex's Snowkist Haven #6046 (B. Johnson)  
Optimara® Hawaii #6558 (Holtkamp)  
Precious Pink #6025 (Pittman)  
Snow Rose #5985 (Whitaker)

## 1992

Dancin' Trail #5565 (Sorano)  
Falling Snow n/r (Tracey)  
Fickle Flirt #6738 (Sorano)

## 1993

Little Pro #6637 (Pittman)

## 1994

Optimara® Rose Quartz #6969 (Holtkamp)

## 1995

There are no 1995 additions to the Honor Roll of African Violets

## 1996

Tomahawk #7269 (K. Stork)  
Irish Flirt #7577 (S. Sorano)

## 1997

Ode to Beauty #7677 (Cox/B. Johnson)  
Picasso #6924 (M. Tremblay)

## 1998

Ness' Crinkle Blue #8136 (D. Ness)  
International n/r (B. Johnson)

## 1999

Milky Way Trail #7469 (J. Stahl)  
Ness' Satin Rose #8144 (D. Ness)

## 2000

Powwow #7708 (K. Stork)  
Rob's Sticky Wicket #6467 (R. Robinson)

## 2001

Windy Day #7719 (Stork/Boone)

**To see the Honor Roll listings from 1960 - 1998, refer to pages 26 & 27 of the May/June 2000 AVM  
To be in the Honor Roll of African Violets, a variety must have appeared in the  
Best Varieties list for three consecutive years.**

*(Minor editorial changes have been made on some of the above cultivars for compliance with the current MVL)*

## BEST VARIETY LIST

There is still time to send your choices for year 2002

The Honor Roll of African Violets in this issue of the African Violet Magazine is made up of African violets which growers have consistently chosen as their favorites. The Best Variety List, published in our November/December edition is a list made up from the choices AVSA members submitted each year. This Best Variety List is *your* list, those plants which have been the best for *you*. After a variety appears on the list for three consecutive years, it is elevated to the Honor Roll of African Violets.

Here is your opportunity to make your voice heard. Which are your favorites that you would encourage others to buy and grow?

You still have time to submit your, or your club's List, by July 31st, 2002. Every member of AVSA is encouraged to take the time to make a list of up to twenty-five of your favorite plants. You may list fewer, especially if you are a new

grower. The list may be sent singly, or as a part of an AVSA affiliate club's summary.

**IMPORTANT:** If you make only one list for the club, please list every plant voted on and how many votes each received. Also, enclose the total number of members voting, as well as the name of the affiliate club.

The more votes, the better the List. Send your choices now, and then watch the November/December African Violet Magazine for the results.

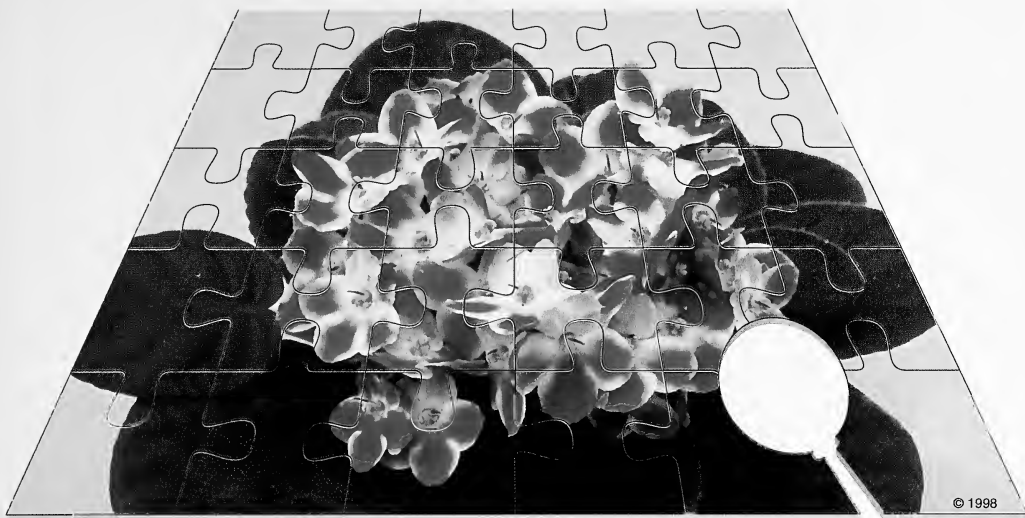
Send your votes to:

**Floyd Lawson**

1100 W. Huntington Drive, #21  
Arcadia, CA 91007, USA

or by e-mail to

floydll@earthlink.net, by July 31, 2002



# What's Missing From This Picture?

Chances are, few of today's garden centers know as much about growing African Violets as you do. No doubt, this explains why so many knowledgeable Violet growers have a hard time finding the products they need. For anyone who knows what it takes to grow beautiful, full-blooming African Violets, it can be like putting together a puzzle, only to find there's a piece missing. We know the feeling. That's why we started the Selective Gardener, a plant care supplier that specializes in products for African Violets.

## Everything You Need to Grow Beautiful, Full-Blooming African Violets

The Selective Gardener makes it easy to get the products you need. As a plant care supplier that specializes in African Violets, the Selective Gardener carries a full line of plant care products with brand names like Optimara.

- Fully-dissolving, urea-free fertilizers
- Self-watering devices such as the Watermaid and the new, spill-proof Optimara WaterShip
- Ultralight, pH-balanced potting media
- Pots, trays and plant covers
- Show accessories and more

## From Leaf Cuttings to Finished Violets

In addition to plant care products, the Selective Gardener offers African Violets in several pot sizes, including genuine Miniatures. You can also order leaf cuttings from all of the available Optimara and Rhapsodie varieties.

## A Complete African Violet Resource

The Selective Gardener is a complete African Violet resource. Send for the Selective Gardener catalog, and you will find offers for plant care products, Violets and leaf cuttings, even books and posters. Or go online, and you will find even more. At the Selective Gardener's internet site (<http://www.selectivegardener.com>), you will have access to a number of resources not available anywhere else.

- Growing tips from the world famous Holtkamp Greenhouses
- Complete interactive Violet identification guide
- Links to other useful sites such as Doctor Optimara, a symptom-based, interactive guide for diagnosing pests and pathogens
- Reviews of African Violet products

**(Tip:** If you do not have access to the internet, try your public library. Many libraries, now, provide computers for public use, as well as helpful assistance for anyone wanting to go online.)

## The Selective Gardener Catalog

To receive the Selective Gardener catalog, send \$1 (which will be credited to your first order) with your name and address to:

The Selective Gardener  
6011 Martingale Lane  
Brentwood, TN 37027

Or visit us online at  
<http://www.selectivegardener.com>.



# Lakeshore AVS Makes Soil

by Beverley Williams • Mississauga, ON, Canada

For many years the members of Lakeshore African Violet Society and other Toronto area societies were fortunate to have Ernie Fisher living in Downsview, just north of Toronto. We were able to purchase our soil ready-made from him. Ernie Fisher employed a couple of young men to make the soil according to his formula. After his death Mrs. Fisher continued to sell soil using his wonderful formula until it became necessary for her to give up the business.

At that time, Bud Tapping decided to take over the business of making and selling soil and other supplies for the local societies. Bud continued using the Fisher formula for many years, and we appreciated his efforts. However, Bud decided to discontinue making soil. When this happened many people were faced with the problem of what to do. The members of the Lakeshore African Violet Society decided to purchase Bud's equipment (a cement mixer and other supplies) and make our own.

When Lakeshore African Violet Society needs soil, we get together and have a soil-making party. This only needs to be done once every one to two years as the need arises. A date is set and volunteers are requested. Usually the soil making takes place over a two-day period, either a weekend or on a Friday and Saturday. We even "pay" our volunteers with a free bag of soil for every day worked. Work two days, get two bags of finished soil! The price to others covers the cost of all the materials plus a little extra so we can purchase more ingredients.

When the decision is made that we need to make soil, Doris and John Brownlie arrange to purchase the large bags of vermiculite, perlite, organic topsoil, charcoal, peat moss, and other chemicals that are needed. Because the fine chipped charcoal is difficult to find in Canada, it has to be obtained from the United States, and sometimes that can take many trips. Doris and John recommend that the bone meal be purchased a year in advance in order to cure.

One of our members, Vivian Beeching, offers the use of her two-car garage in order to store the necessary ingredients and the cement mixer, as well as provide a place to work. When all the ingredients are purchased and the date is set we have a party. Everyone meets at Vivian's with his or her lunch and away we go. We try to choose a time when the weather is nice as we really want to work outside if possible. Working in the cold is not pleasant.

Prior to starting, Doris and John assemble the chemicals in individual plastic bags that are opened and added to each bag of soil as it is made. This assembly could be done on the day of soil making. Simply have one person measure out the chemicals as needed.

We make each individual 16-litre bags separately, but do so in an assembly line fashion. One person will put 1 quart of charcoal into a bucket, which is passed down the line to the

next person who adds 2 liters of perlite, then to the next who adds 2 liters of vermiculite and the next who adds the 1/2 gallon of topsoil. This bucketful is now ready to be poured into the cement mixer. Another team breaks up the peat moss, measuring 1 3/4 gallon into a second bucket to which the pre-measured chemicals are added in the middle.

The two buckets that make up the completed soil mixture are placed ready to be put into the cement mixer where the water is added. Another person keeps the water bucket full.

One person is in charge of the cement mixer, and in our case, that person is John Brownlie. When the soil ingredients are completely mixed, they are dumped into a large plastic bushel basket. The cement mixer has to be banged on the sides or scraped to remove all the finished soil which often sticks. If the finished mixture is too lumpy, the cause could be not having the peat moss well broken up or too much water may have been added. You can mix your ingredients by hand in a large container, but a cement mixer works a lot faster.

It works best if two people are available to move the finished soil from the cement mixer to the funnel through which it is poured into large plastic bags. It is recommended that one person hold the plastic bag when the funnel is lifted out. After bouncing the bag up and down to remove any air, it should be tied securely. If you do not have a large funnel, a large scoop will work. We had our funnel made, but one may be available from large garden centers.

Store the finished soil in a dry, cool, dark location away from mice and squirrels. If the plastic bag is damaged by animals the soil should not be used. Do not use the soil for at least two weeks after making it. The ingredients must be allowed to cure. If the soil freezes, allow it to thaw to room temperature before using. We have kept the soil for longer than two years and still get excellent results.

As few as six people can do the whole process from start to finish, but more hands make light work and it goes better with eight to ten. Don't forget to clean up.

We make over 200 bags of soil in two days. Most of it goes in my garage!

## Supplies for Soil Making:

- 10 large buckets to mix ingredients
- 2 - 1 litre glass measuring containers (for soil and charcoal)
- 2 - 1 litre plastic measuring containers (for vermiculite and perlite)
- 2 - 4 litre containers for measuring sphagnum peat moss
- 1 - 4 litre container for measuring water
- 2 - 250 milliliter (1 cup) glass measuring containers for the chemicals
- scissors
- tablespoon

large plastic bags and twist ties large enough to hold finished soil (16 liters)  
small plastic bags and twist ties for measuring chemicals  
cement mixer, if possible  
large funnel or hand scoop  
rubber mallet, small hand trowel to clean out cement mixer  
large plastic bushel pail to empty cement mixer  
latex gloves  
face masks

**Fisher's Soil Formula:**

2 liters sterilized clay loam (or organic top soil)  
2 liters coarse vermiculite

2 liters perlite  
2 liters fine chip charcoal  
8 liters sphagnum peat moss (screened, or lumps broken up)  
4 liters water

**Chemicals:**

Mix together:  
250 ml (1 cup) bone meal  
250 ml (1 cup) powdered dolomite lime  
15 ml (1 tablespoon) Fermate or Ferbam

From *Chatter*, publication of the AVS of Canada



# How Can We Help AVSA Grow?

by Pat Hancock  
West Chester, OH

When I read Nancy Hayes' plea for help in gaining new members for AVSA, (Jan/Feb 2002, Pg. 5 and 54), I thought the idea of ten people each getting ten new members each was great. However, there is an old church adage that goes something like this, "Each one, WIN one". Wouldn't that apply to all of us who are avid AVSA members? Just think, if each of us just got one new member this year, we would *double* the membership of AVSA!

I have been told by many garden club members that our *African Violet Magazine* is by far the best flower magazine out there, and I think most of us would certainly agree. The quality of the magazine today is something of which we should all be proud. I own a lot of older copies from the early days, and it is truly amazing how far we have come.

I look forward to the day my AVM arrives, and I spend most of the next two days reading and rereading every article. The color pictures are wonderful to see, and everything about the AVM is really top-notch. I'm sure that most of you feel the same way I do about AVSA and our AVM.

SO...how do we each get one new member for AVSA this year? I'm sure each of you knows a friend or family member who has a few African violets. Perhaps they buy them at the grocery store, keep them for a while, kill them, and buy a few more. These people really **NEED** the benefit of our magazine! How many times have I heard, "I have a brown thumb," or "I

can't grow African violets. They just die on me!" With the help available on the pages of the AVM, these folks might become African violet enthusiasts!

We could each give a GIFT membership to a good friend, relation, or to a doctor, dentist, or veterinarian's office. If you can't send a subscription, order an extra copy of the next issue and give it to someone. The magazine will sell itself. I find that a lot of African violet people are also "pet people", and a magazine placed in a veterinarian's office would get a lot of exposure.

I recently took my husband to a doctor's office where he had to check in with the nurse first. The shelves in her office were lined with "near death" African violets. She was so proud of them that I didn't have the heart to tell her how really bad they were. The next time we have an appointment, I plan to take her a beautiful variegated African violet and a copy of the AVM.

We all need to do more to promote our favorite plant and our society. I hope each of you will try a little harder this year not only to talk more about African violets, but also about AVSA and all the good work that our society accomplishes.

I would love to get a message that my AVM will be a little late in coming, because there were so many new memberships that there had to be a second printing!

# Showcase

## *Rebel's Centennial Star*

Exhibited by: **Shannon Ahlman**

Hybridized by: **Ruth Bann**

Standard



Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky**

## *Optimara Chagall*

From Second Best Holtkamp  
Collection (Commercial)

2002 AVSA National Show

Exhibited by:

**Kent Stork**

**Kent's Flowers**

Hybridized by: **Holtkamp**



Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky**



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

## *Saintpaulia Grandifolia* #237

*Best Species*

*2002 AVSA National Show*

*Exhibited by: **Felicia Wdowiak***

# WICKING MY LITTLE ONES

by Joyce Myers

Many years ago, we had a greenhouse in our back yard. I wicked my plants on benches filled with builder's sand. We are now living in a different home, and I began adding minis and semis to my collection. I soon found it difficult to water all the plants that were located in different rooms of our home. My method of top watering was a real chore. I then began my five methods of wicking.

## Method 1.

I bought dozens of plastic containers with lids for wicking reservoirs. Carefully, we cut holes in the lid, one for the wick and one for pouring in water. I found the lids got messy and algae was growing in the bottom of the reservoirs. Each one needed filling at different times. I cleaned the plant stands and then I had to clean the reservoirs for my standards and large violets.

Method 1 – Scratched for the little ones!

## Method 2.

I bought cat litter pans and we purchased hardware cloth (metal meshing). My husband cut the meshing to fit the tops of the litter pans. He bent the edges of the mesh over the sides of the pans, so the plants would be closer to the lights. We set up eight pans using this method. I scratched my glasses on the mesh as I was bending down to check the plants on a lower shelf. Added to this was snagging my clothes on the mesh, as I reached toward the back for certain plants. I also had pinched wicks from moving the plants around. I don't want to think of how many pots I knocked over.

Method 2 – This method almost made me turn blue!

## Method 3.

We had a queen size, acrylic blanket that wasn't soft against the skin; so off I went to grab the scissors. I began cutting the blanket to the size of the top of the hardware mesh. I cut strips of the blanket to make wicks that lay on top of the blanket strips and down into the pans to wick up the water. I used this method for a long time, but I found myself having to wash the blanket sections every two weeks due to algae and soil deposits. The material had a tendency to pull, and I just didn't like the appearance. We striped insulation off electrical wiring to expose the copper wire. The copper was cut into one-inch lengths and placed into the bottom of the pans. The purpose was to eliminate or reduce the amount of algae. It was the best method I found for serving the main purpose.

Method 3 – This method was close but it didn't satisfy me!

## Method 4.

We bought egg crating (used for recessed ceilings). My husband cut the crating to the size needed for the top of the litter pans. I wanted the plants to sit closer to the lights. After using this method for several months, I found wicks became dry upon moving plants and plants were being knocked over while reaching for plants in the back row. Oh Me! This is turning out to be quite a learning experience.

Method 4. – Testing this method pushed the crating out the door!

## Method 5.

A friend of ours owns a floral shop. He brought over two blocks of Oasis Advantage PlusFloral Foam, 3" x 4" x 9". We cut the bricks in half horizontally and placed them in the bottom of the cat litter pans. I added a half-gallon of fertilized water, which was immediately absorbed by the bricks. I was so impressed I immediately began placing my plants that had wicks onto the bricks. Then I added plants that had no wick, just a hole in the bottom of the pot. All I had to do was wait and see. I counted the days as they passed, five days to be exact. I was so impressed, I called our friend and said, "this works great - order me a case". Two days later we picked up a case of the floral foam and began setting up the watering system for all the minis, semis, babies, and propagating leaves. It took two days to set up the wicking system. It places more humidity in the room, so that's an added bonus! I can add almost a gallon of water to each dry pan. When the foam bricks are thoroughly saturated, I wait until they get almost dry and add as much water as they will absorb. I have seen the pans go dry after five days, but the bricks are still wet and the plants are still moist. I think I'm on a roll for seven days between adding water!

Method 5. My plants are thriving in humidity and moisture...just mean for their size!

## Final Thoughts

I've been asked about leaching the bricks to remove build-ups. I remove all the plants on a pan and carry it to the kitchen sink. I then run water over the bricks using the sprayer. The water flows through the brick much faster than through soil. After a few seconds of rinsing, I drain off the excess water and let the pan sit, while I begin another pan. By the time I have done two pans, the first one is ready to



drain off any excess that may have settled. I replace the plants onto the bricks, and add fertilized water to my pans every other time they need water.

My husband has suggested putting a plastic cover over the foam bricks. Then cut holes for the pots to sit into. This process would eliminate faster evaporation. I'll think about that one for awhile and send an update...if I get that eager!

### Advantages

Refilling the pans is easy  
No more pinched wicks

Plant remains moist as long as the foam is wet.  
The cost is less than the egg crating.  
Signs of algae have not appeared

### Disadvantages

Foam mars easily  
If allowed to dry out completely, it will eventually disintegrate.  
If the room temperature is warm, they dry out faster.  
I bought mine wholesale (\$35). Others may have to pay more, plus shipping.

## AVSA Building Maintenance Fund

Mary Walbrick • 5235 Kingston Drive • Wichita Falls, Texas 76310-3029

E-mail: MWalbrick@aol.com • Fax: 775-243-0836

### Donations received January 20 - February 28, 2002

AVS of Minnesota, Saint Paul, MN	\$15.00
<i>In memory of Helen Filipczak</i>	
AVS of Springfield PA, Boothwyn, PA	25.00
<i>In memory of Joan Coacher</i>	
Amethyst AVC, Manchester, MO	10.00
Baja Oregon Bloomers, Montague, CA	20.00
Metropolitan St Louis AV Council, St Louis, MO	20.00
Tristate AV Council, Bordentown, NJ	25.00
Kent's Flowers, Fremont, NE	10.00
Smith's Country Cottage AVS, Spencerport, NY	5.00
Frank Barthel, Syracuse, NY	25.00
Virginia Barthelemy, Tampa, FL	5.00
Sue Ann Blackmon, Conyers, GA	25.00
Janice A. Bruns, Hanover Park, IL	20.00
Sherry Burchett, Eau Claire, MI	5.00
Doug Christensen, Lombard, IL	5.00
Christine W. Davis, Harrison, ME	5.00
Mae Dodson, Baltimore, MD	5.00
Sheri DuBois, Wimberley, TX	10.00
Colin Dimon, Vestal, NY	10.00
Victoria Frey, Old Bridge, NJ	10.00
Helen K. Gird, Bryant, WI	2.00
Nina Gresham, Prince, KY	10.00
Doreen Hassan, San Jose, CA	10.00
Doris A Jolley, Batesville, MS	5.00
Gordon C. Kibbe, Longmeadow, MA	10.00
Gertude M. Koch, Clayton, MO	10.00
Mary Lester, Aurora, CO	10.00
Betty Lewis, Lawrenceville, GA	5.00
Joan McKerr, Northport, NY	10.00
Margaret Mallett, Wilson, LA	5.00
Ralph A. Mancusi, Orange Park, FL	5.00
Marion Martin, Westfield, NJ	5.00
Elena Martinez, Miami, FL	10.00
F. Eleanor Mattalano, Tinton Falls, NJ	10.00
Lena Mae Mendes, Cameron Park, CA	20.00
Mrs. William Moeller (Georgia), Electra, TX	10.00
Pat Montgomery, San Jose, CA	10.00
Arnold W. Mueller, Vista, CA	50.00
Shirley Musser, Orange, TX	10.00
Walther H. Ott, Bridgewater, NJ	50.00

Mary R. Parker, Sandy, OR	\$5.00
Frankie N. Pletzer, Beaumont, TX	10.00
Karen Plourde, Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA	100.00
Ralph O. Quaintance, Philadelphia, PA	5.00
Corky Reichmann, Fairbanks, AK	5.00
Nancy Rentfro, Tucson, AZ	10.00
Jean M. Rogers, New Bedford, MA	10.00
Elizabeth Roth, Wallingford, PA	5.00
Denise Sarrazin, Rawdon, Canada	3.50
Cecelia Seidel, Hayward, CA	5.00
Kay C. Schroeder, Clarksburg, MD	10.00
Geneva Staggs, Germantown, TN	10.00
Lois Szostak, Melville, NY	5.00
Marcia Tinchick, Winfield, IL	5.00
Nancy Twaskas, Elizabeth, NJ	10.00
Renee Victor, Teaneck, NJ	10.00
Beverly Volk, Allentown, PA	5.00
Helen Wamsley, Pitkin, LA	5.00
Faye Weditz, Wichita, KS	10.00
Cecelia Winfield, North Brunswick, NJ	1.00

**TOTAL \$741.50**

### Donations received March 1 - 31, 2002

Albuquerque AVC, Albuquerque, NM	\$25.00
Oshkosh Violet Society, Omro, WI	10.00
Carol Allegretti, Woodstock, IL	20.00
Willard Cardot, Lilburn, GA	10.00
Ovella Ruth Hall, Hot Springs National Park, AR	10.00
Albert Maddux, Milton, FL	5.00
Lynn Milgrom, Richmond, VA	10.00
Paulette Mitchell, Garden Grove, CA	5.00
Sandy Officer, Bloomington, MN	10.00
William E. Reed, Redford, MI	5.00
Sarah R. Richardson, Cantonment, FL	5.00
Susan Rutkowski, Livonia, MI	10.00
Janice Sorensen, Englewood, CO	5.00
Arno C. Tellier, Sr, Milwaukee, WI	10.00
Lynda E. Vaillancourt, Durango, CO	10.00
Barbara H. Werness, Coon Rapids, MN	10.00
Joan K Wilson, Theresa, WI	10.00

**TOTAL \$170.00**

**VISIT THE AVSA'S WEBSITE:**  
**www.AVSA.org**

# Showcase

## *Pony Ride*

Exhibited by: **Ron Ennis**

Hybridized by: **S. Sorano**

*Miniature Trailer*



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

## *Raspberries 'n' Cream*

Exhibited by: **Deborah Sanders**

*Smith Country Cottage*

*Standard*

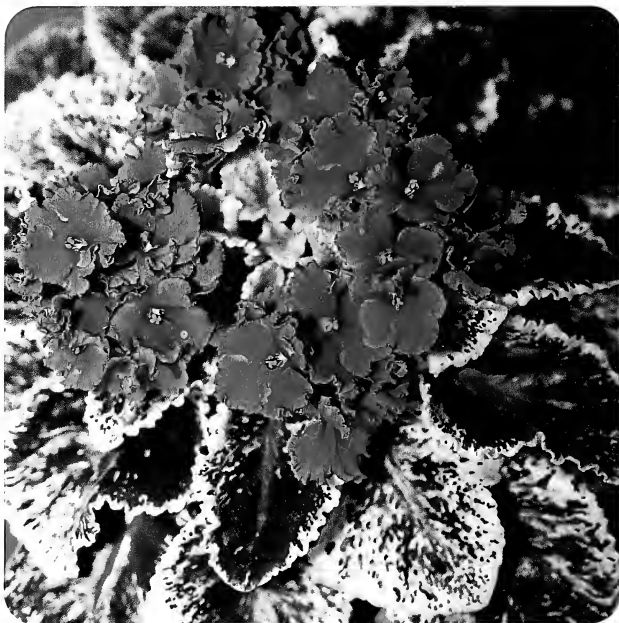


Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

## ***Ramblin' Lassie***

*Best Girl Foliage*

*2002 AVSA National Show*

*Exhibited by: **Sue Hoffmann***

*Hybridized by: **R. Brenton***

*Semiminiature Trailer*

# “And the winners are ...”



**Mary J. Corondan**  
7205 Dillon Court  
Plano, TX 75024

**ALPHA AVS, FIRST AVS OF DALLAS, FIRST NIGHTER AVS OF DALLAS, TX – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Picasso, Abilene, Pueblo; Best in Show/Best Standard: Picasso, **Martha Turner**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Prize, Cool Blue, Tiptop; Best Miniature: Planet Kid; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Hortense Pittman**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Red Bandito, Hondo Honey, Tiptop, **Ray Pittman**. Best Semiminiature: Honey Blue Ace; Best Design, **Anne Nicholas**. Best Trailer: Rob's Wagga Wagga, **Sylvia Leeds**. Best Gesneriad: *Columnnea* 'Early Bird', **Richard Nicholas**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*, **Bill Foster**. Design Sweepstakes, **Mary Corondan**.

**AVC OF GREATER KANSAS CITY – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Alabama II, Omaha Thunder, Ness' White Bear; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Pro, Optimara Little Shoshone, Rob's Little Pueblo; Best Trailer: Marion's Enchanted Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Sue Hill**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Berry Shake, Rob's Miss Sniffles, Little Prize; Best in Show/Best Standard: Optimara Trinidad; Best Semiminiature: Little Houston, **Pat Richards**. Best Miniature: Optimara Little Ruby, **Juanita Mallory**. Best Gesneriad: *Nematanthus* 'Black Gold', **Tricia Taylor**. Best Design: Design Sweepstakes, **Marsha Loveland**.

**AVS OF GREATER TULSA, OK – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Coral Kiss, Ness' Viking Frost, Optimara Van Gogh; Best Standard: Kissing Bandit, **Maleven List**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Hand Puppet, Rob's Calypso Beat, Rob's Mad Cat; Best Design: Design Sweepstakes, **Pat Sutton**. Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Blue Socks, **Phyllis Enos**. Best Miniature: Rob's Smarty Pants; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Judith Carter**. Best Trailer: Cherokee Trail; Best Gesneriad: *Columnnea* 'Aladdin's Lamp', **Edna McCawley**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia* #237, **Doris Carson**.

**CENTRAL FLORIDA AVS, FL – Winners:** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Buckeye Dogwood Spring, Buckeye Calico, Picasso; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Antique Rose, Irish Flirt, Precious Pink; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Evelyn Briggs**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Daydream's Fantasy Romance, **Mary Juby**. Best Semiminiature: Lyon's Little Sweetheart; Best Miniature: Rob's Penny Ante; Design Sweepstakes, **Elvie Blakely**. Best Trailer: Daisy Trail, **Lois Sprayberry**. Best Design, **Shelley Stone**.

**CORPUS CHRISTI AVS, TX – Winners:** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Rob's Boogie Woogie, Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Boogie Woogie, **Dale Locher**. Best Standard: Optimara Trinidad, **Marcia Pilbin**. Best Trailer: Amadie Trail, **Kimi Bircher**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Piggy Wiggly', **Marjorie Bullard**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Sarah**

**Stensland**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Judy Majek**.

**DESERT SUN AVS, AZ – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Trinidad, I Feel Pretty, Granger's Wonderland; Best in Show/Best Standard/Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita sinensis* 'Aiko'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Thelma Heinrich**. Best Miniature: Optimara Little Moonstone, **Ruth Loomis**. Best Trailer: Cherry Blossom Trail, **Cynde Lere**. Best Design, **Marlene Buck**.

**DIXIE AVS, GA – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Mindi Morn, Annabelle, Aca's Coral Beauty; Best Standard: Bertha; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Joanne Baker-Prunner**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Boogie Woogie, Rob's Calypso Beat, Optimara Little Ottawa; Best Miniature: Orchard's Wonder Twin, **Roger Peeler**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Heat Wave, Irish Flirt, Rob's Antique Rose, **George McDonald**. Best in Show/Best Trailer: Tiny Wood Trail, **Alice Grundy**. Best Semiminiature: Rob's Fuzzy Navel, **Jay Sepico**. Best Gesneriad: *Codonanthe devostiana* 'Paula', **Gary Gordon**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Bob Green**.

**FIRST AVS OF DENTON, TX – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Brazos Stormy Skies, Mary Craig, Rodeo Country; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fuzzy Navel, Ness' Crinkle Blue, Rob's Boogie Woogie; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Boogie Woogie; Best Standard: Mary Craig; Best Gesneriad: *Columnnea* 'Early Bird'; Best Miniature: Dean's Lady Bug; Best Trailer: Marion's Enchanted Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Richard Nicholas**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Timid Teen, Orchard's Bumble Magnet, Knight Magic, **Anne Nicholas**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*, **Phyllis Reuss**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Janet Castiglione**.

**FIRST AVS OF WICHITA FALLS, TX – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Vintage Wine, Windy Day, Annabelle; Best in Show/Best Standard: Windy Day; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Alene Peek**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Boogie Woogie, Rob's Heebie Jeebie, Rob's Miss Sniffles, **Gail Elmore**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Rare Stone', **Vee Sanger**. Best Design, **Mary Walbrick**.

**FIRST AUSTIN AVS, TX – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Powder Keg, Buckeye Bravado, Ward Brown; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Boogie Woogie; Best Standard: Buckeye Bravado; Best Miniature: Orchard's Wonder Twin; Best Trailer: Tiny Wood Trail; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Mom's Plant'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Sherrie Wallace**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Whoa Nellie, Teen Thunder, Red Bandito, **Jeannette Pursley**. Best Design, **Gloria DuBose**. Design Sweepstakes, **Susan Storey**.

**GEORGIA STATE AV COUNCIL, GA – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Buckeye Cherry Topping, Coral Glo, Granger's Wonderland; Best in Show: Coral Glo, **Lois Duval**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Orchard's Bumble Magnet, Persian Prince, Dean's Ivory Lace; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Pink Puff; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Mohawk; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Janice Norton**. Best Trailer: Ramblin' Red, **Kathy Spissman**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Cleopatra', **Shirley Waldon**. Best Design: Design Sweepstakes, **Betty Lewis**.

**LAKES AREA VIOLET GROWERS, MN – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara California, Melodie Heather, Rhapsodie Stephanie; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Boo Hoo, Optimara Little Shoshone, Rob's Scooter; Best in Show/Best Standard/Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Boo Hoo; Best Trailer: Nancy Hayes; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita sinensis* 'Hisako'; Best Design: Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Kathy Lahli**. Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Viking Frost, Ness' White Bear, Ness' Forever Blue; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Sno Fun, Ness' Cranberry Swirl, Ness' Tutti Frutti, **Jean Ness**.

**MEMPHIS AVS, TN – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Lela Marie, Picasso, Phantom Flash; Best Gesneriad: *Primulina tobacum*; Best Design: Design Sweepstakes, **Rhona Thurman**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia difflitis*, *Saintpaulia brevipedata*, *Saintpaulia rupicola*; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Shadow Magic, Cool blue, Ness' Satin Rose, **Gary Thurman**. Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Thunder Surprise; Best Miniature: Petite Jewel, **Ann Shirley**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: California Sunset, Orchard's Night Light, Rob's Macho Devil; Best Standard/Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia* #299; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Geneva Stagg**.

**OAKVILLE AVS, ONT – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Royal Flair, Tiger, Harbor Blue; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Scooter, Rob's Cool Fruit, Persian Lace; Best in Show/Best Standard: Royal Flair; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Cool Fruit; Best Miniature: Optimara Rose Quartz; Best Trailer: Pixie Blue; Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*; Best Gesneriad: *Smithiantha* 'Little One'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Eva Linstol**. Design Sweepstakes, **Josefina Fitzurliam**.

**POMONA VALLEY AVS, CA – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Pink Moon, Apache Redcoats, Optimara Acadia; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Britches; Optimara Little Seneca; Shy Blue; Best Trailer: Stickey Spring Trail, **Gini McCanne**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Oksana, Optimara Little Ottawa, Rob's Loose Goose; Best in Show/Best Standard: Frozen in Time; Best Semiminiature: Oksana; Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Best Design: Design Sweepstakes, **Pat Vinciguerra**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Mom's Plant', **Nancy Di Paola**.

**QUAD-CITIES AVS, IA – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Buffalo Hunt, Optimara Keepsake, Phantom Flash; Best in Show/Best Standard: Buffalo Hunt; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Cel Schafer**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Blue Light, Bogeyman, Sugar Bear Pink; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Pearl; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Carol Boyd**. Best Trailer: Linda Darnel, **Alma Lavine**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Bright Eyes'; Best Design, **LuAnn Christenson**. Design Sweepstakes, **Jackie Jones**.

**SOUTH COAST AVS, CA – Winners:** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Heritage Frolic, Rob's Boogie Woogie, Rob's Whippoorwill; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Heritage Frolic; Best Standard: Apache Wonder; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Leonard Re**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Dust Storm, Rob's Cool Fruit, Rob's Hallucination; Best Miniature: Rob's Jitterbug; Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo; Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*; Best Design, **Hans Inpijn**. Design Sweepstakes, **Everdina Inpijn**.

**SPRING BRANCH AVC – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Apache Freedom, Apache Victory, Rodeo Country;

Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Lenora Munk**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia velutina*, *Saintpaulia pendula* var. *kizarae*, *Saintpaulia orbicularis*; Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula* var. *kizarae*, **Laurie Coleman**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Little Ottawa, Optimara Little Chicksaw, Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Semiminiature: Optimara Little Chicksaw; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Moonstone, **Meredith Hall**. Best in Show/Best Trailer: Summer Wind Trail; Design Sweepstakes, **Ruth Goeke**. Best Gesneriad: *Columnnea* 'Early Bird', **Trish Wright**. Best Design, **Jane Rexilius**.

**SUNDOWNER'S AVS, LA – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Tomahawk, Optimara Ontario, Smokey Moon; Best Standard: Tomahawk; Best Design: Design Sweepstakes, **Elmer Godeny**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Dominica, Tomahawk, Ozio, **George Ramirez**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Boogie Woogie, Rob's Berry Shake, Rob's Strobe Light; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Jumpin' Jack', **Robert Truax**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Little Pawnee, Optimara Little Pueblo, Optimara Little Cherokee; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Optimara Little Pawnee, **Sallie Barlow**. Best Miniature: Ness' Angel Blush; Best Trailer: Marion's Enchanted Trail; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grotetii*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Martha Dyson**.

**TAMPA AVS, FL – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Victorian Ribbons, Blackberry Jam, Cajun Popcorn; Best in Show/Best Standard: Blackberry Jam; Best Miniature: Frosted Denim; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Mini Menish**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Muffy, Anna Kreeck, Lila Marie, **Jay Sespico**. Best Semiminiature: Ness' Red Flash, **Lucille Chester**. Best Trailer: Saratoga Trail, **Margaret Ritchie**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Cleopatra', **Glenn Shelton**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Dottie Cesario**.

**TUCSON AVS, AZ – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Degas II, Optimara Tango, Rhapsodie Rosalie; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Sassy Sister, Irish Flirt, Precious Pink; Best in Show/Best Standard: Optimara Degas II, **Doris Morris**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Frosty Fun, Optimara Little Maya, Precious Pink; Best Semiminiature: Frosty Fun, **Darlene Panter**. Best Trailer: Candy Fountain, **Julie Brown**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Ice Castle', **Susan Merski**. Best Design, **Joan Dixon**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Hattie Baggett**. Design Sweepstakes, **Cindy Baker**.

**TUSTANA AVS, CA – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Melodie Kimi, Optimara Ontario, Rebel's Valiant; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Pewter Bells, Ness' Crinkle Blue, Cool Blue; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Tiger Lily'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Karen Stevenson**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Little Seneca, Shy Blue, Oksana; Best in Show: Oksana; Best Trailer: Stickey Spring Trail, **Gini McCanne**. Best Standard: Bertha, **Leonard Re**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Irmi Bullinger**.

**UPPER PINELLAS AVS, FL – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Bertha, Rain Man, Tiger; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Boondoggle, Ness' Cranberry Swirl, Rob's Hand Puppet; Best in Show/Best Standard: Bertha; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Cranberry Swirl; Best Miniature: Aly's Blizzard Bunny; Best Trailer: Snowy Trail; Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Kim'; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Phyllis King**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Honey Berry, Cupid's Kiss, Texas Teen, **Cheryl Richardson**.

**WICHITA AV STUDY CLUB, KS – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ms. Pretty, B-Man's Irish Red, Smooch Me; Best in Show/Best Standard: Smooch Me; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Helen Barrett**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Mad Cat, Rob's Boondoggle, Ness' Satin Rose; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Mad Cat; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Moonstone, **Faye Wieditz**. Design Sweepstakes, **Jimmie Toney**.

# Showcase

## *Mac's Shangri-La Serendipity*

*Exhibited & Hybridized by:  
George McDonald*



## *Streptocarpus 'Bristol's Party Girl'*

*Exhibited by: Sue Hoffmann*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*



*Photo Credit. Winston J. Goretsky*

*Evergreen's  
Sadie Lady*

*Exhibited by: Joanne Baker-Pruner*



*Aca's  
Curious George*

*Exhibited & Hybridized by:  
John Brownlie Aca's Violet Tree*

# Tips for Creating Blue Ribbon Underwater Flower Arrangements

by Sue Hoffmann

*Designer and AVSA Senior Judge*

Do you remember your first African violet show? The plants seemed unbelievable! There were big ones, tiny ones, blossoms in every shape, size and color - including those incredible dots, splashes, and stripes. There were other interesting plants - all related to the African violet. And then you see them: the underwater arrangements! "Are those really underwater?" "Those aren't real blossoms, are they?" "What's holding everything down there?" "How long do they last?" "Is that special water?" They definitely leave a lasting impression with most people.

Underwater designs are part of the Interpretive Flower Arrangement division in many show schedules. These flower arrangements usually follow the same rules as other flower arrangements, however they must be completely submerged in water and exhibited in a transparent container. Anyone can create an underwater design. Here are some tips to help you create blue ribbon underwater flower arrangements. First, read and understand your schedule. Jot down ideas. Things to consider relate to the theme or title of the class: what is the shape or size of available containers; does a certain color come to mind; what texture or motion does the theme relay? Since underwater arrangements are usually done without the aid of a niche or backdrop, the shape and design of your container are important. The container is your niche. You must choose your container before beginning the design process. Bubble bowls have convex viewing areas which magnify the contents, plus you must be careful not to have the lines of the arrangement broken by refraction of light through the water. It is much easier working with a flat front container.

Second, it is important to find the right line material: a small piece of driftwood, shells, a bent copper pipe, coral, pieces of grapevine, coins, bamboo. An important lesson in underwater design: Keep It Simple! Make sure your line material extends high enough in the container to fill most of the space, but leave a comfortable distance from the waterline. The design can assume any shape: triangle, crescent, S-curve, diamond, fan. In my opinion, this is the most important part of the design process. Your line material conveys motion and rhythm. It balances the container, plus it defines and uses space, pattern, form, and scale to establish the basis of your interpretation. Depending on the overall design width, your vertical line should cover between 80% - 95% of the container height (base to waterline.) After your framework is established, you need to find the right accent pieces and materials. Dark green foliage provides substance to a clear palette since you are usually working without the

benefit of a colored background. Variegated foliage can fade out and disappear. For a stunning contrast, try layering it with something dark. Accent pieces are unlimited. You can add shells, stones, glass beads, a twist of colored cellophane. Let your creativity run wild, but keep in mind: less is more. Color works as a wonderful accent. It should be a complement to your design, shadowing or enhancing the blossom color which should be dominant. Some recommended accent plants are: liriope, pachysandra, begonia leaves, holly, and most types of evergreens. If you are trying new plant material, make sure to test it before using it in your design. Place each variety of plant you intend to use in a separate, clear container under water for several hours. Avoid plants that cloud the water. This test should help you avoid unfortunate surprises during a show. You may use accessories, but be careful. A little goes a long way. Judges like subtle interpretations of themes. Unfortunately, it is easy to get carried away when you find some small piece that is "perfect for the theme, and so cute." Although it may be cute, many times it's too big or too bold for a subtle design.

Finally, you are ready for the stars of the show: the blossoms! Most people think color when they think blossoms. Color is important for setting a mood/tone, but equally important is the size and type of bloom. If you decide to use only one blossom, it should be large and it should be bold. Single and double flowers tell different stories. Decide what you are trying to say with your design, and let the blossoms speak for you. Experiment by placing several different flowers underwater. You will know which to choose when you see them. Dark blossoms do last longer than white or very pale colors, and yes, hot glue can be applied directly to your blossoms without burning them. Your blossoms are the focal point of the design. They can be used at the bottom of the design as an anchor, or be displayed above the base to enhance your line. Several can be bunched together, or they may be placed individually to create a pattern. As with most designs, odd numbers, different sizes, and graduated heights create the greatest appeal.

Should you use bottom cover? This includes aquarium gravel, sand, tiny shells, glass beads, and seaweed. Bottom cover is not necessary, designs look neat and clean without it, but consider using it if you need to hide mechanics or add weight to the bottom of your design for balance. Keep the material in scale with the rest of your design, and be aware that sand can float! I've had luck adding sand after the water is in the container. Any floating sand can be poked with a wooden dowel to make it fall. Although colored material may



be used, I would recommend staying as neutral as possible to avoid distracting from the blossoms. It's true. Distilled water just about eliminates air bubbles in underwater arrangements. Points are not supposed to be deducted for bubbles; however, unless you specifically want bubbles in your design why not use distilled water? Most containers are under a gallon capacity, so you may want to carry bottled water with you to the show. Add your water slowly; pour it along the inside edge of your container or insert a rod or measuring stick to direct your flow of water. You may opt to gently pour water on a piece of paper laying on the water surface. It defuses the stream. I recommend adding bottom cover at the end.

Creating underwater flower arrangements is fun and rewarding. Many people will ask questions about your design, just like you did the first time you saw a design under water. You'll leave a lasting impression. Hopefully, I've answered some basic questions and encouraged you to enter an underwater design in the next show you attend. Below is the AVSA Judges scale of points, plus specific areas to watch. Good luck!

## How Underwater Flower Arrangements are Judged

### AVSA Scale of Points for Interpretive Underwater Flower Arrangements

Design 40 points

Interpretation of schedule . . . . .	5 points
Distinction and Originality. . . . .	15 points
Suitability of Materials . . . . .	10 points
Relationship of materials. . . . .	10 points
Condition of materials. . . . .	10 points

#### Points are deducted for:

- Loose, floating material not attached directly or indirectly to the container
- Lines of the arrangement broken by refraction of light through the water
- Plant material touching the tops or sides of the container
- Translucent foliage or blossoms
- Cloudy or murky water
- Exposed mechanics
- No artificial plant material may be used.

## Louisiana Lagniappe

### Baton Rouge

by Elmer Godeny

The 2003 AVSA National Convention will be held in Baton Rouge. The theme of the convention is "Louisiana Lagniappe" which translates into "extra surprises from Louisiana." Baton Rouge is the state capital of Louisiana and is rich in culture and history.

On March 17, 1699, the French explorer, Pierre le Moyne, Sieur d'Iberville and his party were traveling up the Mississippi River. They traveled upriver past the future site of New Orleans, which did not impress him, until he came upon the first highland bluffs. On these bluffs, which were located on the east bank of the river, was a vertical pole, red with blood dripping from animal and fish heads attached to it. This pole was probably a ceremonial device and a boundary marker between the Houma Indians to the north and the Bayagoulas to the south. Iberville named this site "Baton Rouge", French for "red stick." In 1999, Baton Rouge celebrated "Bon Fete 300", the city's 300th birthday.

Throughout its history, Baton Rouge has passed between France, Spain, Great Britain, and France. Finally, in 1803, it was acquired by the United States in the Louisiana Purchase. The 200th anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase will be celebrated in 2003.

The French influence is very prevalent in present day Louisiana; in fact, many of the state laws are based on the Napoleonic Code. Baton Rouge, like all of south Louisiana, has a strong Catholic influence. In fact, Louisiana is the only state in the United States which does not have counties; the state is divided into Parishes.

The state capital building in Baton Rouge is the tallest state capital building in the United States. It was built by Governor Huey P. Long and completed in 1932. This building was the scene of Governor Long's assassination. The bullet holes can still be seen in the marble hallways. The old state capital building is a National Historical Landmark. It is a Gothic fortress located on the banks of the Mississippi River. Although the stained-glass dome and massive spiral staircase are inspirational, Mark Twain referred to the old state capital building as a "whitewashed castle with turrets and things."

Baton Rouge is home to both the Louisiana State University and Southern University.

Numerous antebellum plantation homes abound in Baton Rouge and the surrounding area. Many of them are open for public tours and accommodations. The surrounding swamps are teeming with alligators and other wildlife.

Louisiana is the "sportsman's paradise."

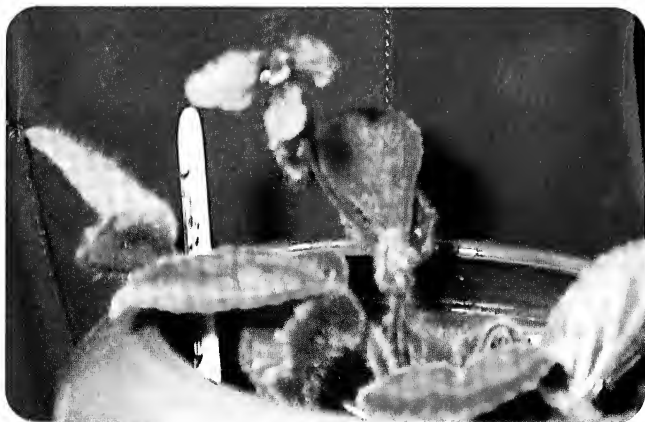
Baton Rouge is located approximately 70 miles from the French Quarter in New Orleans. The music and cuisine of New Orleans can be experienced in Baton Rouge. Indeed, the Cajun culture can be felt throughout south Louisiana. The climate of Baton Rouge is considered humid and subtropical. Temperatures in the month of April should be around 80 degrees for a high and 65 degrees for the low. The average rainfall for April is 4.77 inches.

So, start making your plans now. Come on down to Baton Rouge for the 2003 National Convention and experience some "Louisiana Lagniappe."





*'Lovely Wasp' photo by Tina Moreno*



*'Blue Tail Fly' photo by Nancy Schweitzer*



*'The Martian' photo by Tina Moreno*

# The Wonderful World of Wasps

by Tina Moreno

What is a wasp you ask? The wasp variety of African violets is a violet whose blossom is described as the upper two petals thread like and fluted up and backward, and three lower petals deeply cut, reminiscent of individual petals. This wonderfully unusual African violets usually, but not always, have bustled foliage. Bustled foliage is a leaf with two leaflets attached at the base of the blade on the back side; in some varieties the leaflet is like another leaf on the back of it. Are you now intrigued? Some people think these violets are not so wonderful - odd looking and a bit unruly. This may be true in some cases and "Wasp plants" may not always be ideal for showing, but there are groups of people who are genuinely intrigued with these plants and are dedicated to the preservation and hybridization of this fascinating African violet.

How did the Wasp Variety begin? It all started back in 1957 when Jimmy Dates obtained a plant called 'bustles' from Mrs. Hotchkiss in Peoria, Ill. It was a sport that showed up in a pan of leaves she had set down of 'Purple Prince'. The leaves were compound, or also known as bustled. The flowers were purple. The petals were fluted and thread like. Jimmy Dates saw the potential for some very interesting hybrids. His first registered introduction was 'Pink Wasp' in 1964.

We have an online group called "Love For Wasps". It is our goal to be able to preserve and put an entire collection of Dates Wasps together to share before they disappear forever. We would like to invite anyone interested to come join us to learn about wasps or teach us a thing or two. The URL is <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Loveforwasps/>

Please come and join the fun. We would also love to hear about other wasp varieties out there in the world. There were

very few other people who hybridized these unique African Violets. We know L. Lyon, F. Wagman, S. Lang, A. Stephens, Domiano/Nadeau, Rader, C. Carter, and Holtkamp each hybridized a few of these Wasp African violets, and there may be more we do not know about.

Jimmy Dates' hybridizing with African violets resulted in the introduction of 60 varieties, 15 of which are registered. Of the 60 varieties, 38 of them are wasps and/or bustled foliage. Unfortunately, we have been unable to locate some of these 38 cultivars. Most of the Dates' hybrids were created over 30 years ago, making them vintage violets. Here is a list of some of the most wanted of the Dates' hybrids:

Columbella	Merida Wasp
Dates Fanfare	Peppermint Frost
Dates Jubilee	Pink Fingers
Dave Masterson Wasp	Pink Wasp
Fantasy Wasp	Rachel
Jimmie Crack Corn	Trail Charmer
Krista (Krisie) Lynn	Zuri
Lithe Lassie	

Please, if you know someone who has these unusual African violets or you have them in your collection and are willing to share a couple of leaves to help us complete a collection of Date's hybrids before they are gone, please send an e-mail to [Gecko2T@aol.com](mailto:Gecko2T@aol.com). You may also contact this e-mail address to ask other questions or to share information you might have about wasp African violets

Thank you for listening to the wasp ramblings.

## FLOWERS PAST THEIR PRIME

by Kim Thorogood

Once our African violets flower, the blooms stay perfect (all at the same time) until you suddenly notice that the plant isn't flowering and you patiently wait for another beautiful head of flowers.

Yeah, right!

In reality, the blooms will fade and die at different rates, so unless you are vigilant and groom your plant regularly, you'll have always have a few old blooms that mar the overall appearance of the plant. The answer is to remove those blooms. You might have a few gaps, but that is better than discolored or dried and shriveled-up flowers becoming the focal point.

However, that is not the only reason you would remove dead and faded flowers.

It also depends on why the flower has died. Have a close

look at the bloom in question. There may be some powdery mildew on it that has caused the bloom to prematurely age, and not gracefully, I might add. These blooms need to be removed before the mildew spreads to the rest of the plant or other plants in the vicinity.

Last but not least - the main reason to remove these old blooms is so that the plant can put all its energy into the remaining healthy tissue. You'll have a much stronger plant this way, enabling it to put its energy into producing more fresh blooms for you to enjoy.

So don't be afraid to say "off with their heads" and act on it!

From the *Newsletter* of the Early Morn AV Group

# Question Box



Ralph Robinson  
P.O. Box 9  
Naples, NY 14512  
email: [robsviolet@aol.com](mailto:robsviolet@aol.com)



Dorothy Kosowsky  
712 Cunningham Dr.  
Whittier, CA 90601  
email: [dot3joe@earthlink.net](mailto:dot3joe@earthlink.net)

Spring has always been my favorite season, but when I started growing African violets it proved to be the super season. All of the African violet shows were held then, and it was a chance to be involved in a show or at least attend one or two. Anyway you look at spring, it's a season of blooms. This has been a special year for southern California because we had little winter and many flowers to enjoy from December when the pansies, Iceland poppies, and China lilies began their wonderful show, till roses and bedding plants displaced them with another wave of color. Mind you, I'm not complaining about the beauty we enjoyed, just that December to March should produce a nice amount of rain. But sadly it also spoils the bloom of many of the flowers we've enjoyed. Well, April has rolled around and we've been blessed with at least a few much needed showers. The promise of daffodils upon the hills was a bit funny, as those had presented their wild show from January to May, including the tulips. We may still have some wood violets as the song "April Showers" promises, but African violets can be counted on the year round if the plant is so programmed. It seems I should be counting my blessings. When all else fails, those African violets in the house deserve much more praise and attention. As you read this in July, our dire need for rain will be of small moment, and perhaps there will be sufficient water to keep our gardens and grass growing. It just seems to me mother nature needs to provide rain at the proper time so that our (southern California.) seasons can be somewhat normal.

**QUESTION:** *Five years ago I moved to a new house and have been disappointed with the African Violets that I've grown in the new house. Before, I had wonderful plants that did all sorts of winning. I'm still doing all the same things, but my success rate isn't the same as at the other house.*

**ANSWER:** All houses are different and until you adjust your present set-up to compensate for the differing conditions, it is not at all the same as when you were growing in your other house. Each house has it's own ecosystem with good, fair, and bad air circulation in various parts of the room or rooms as the case may be. Light will vary according to the number and size of windows and will effect your need for more or less hours of artificial light. If the house tends to be very dry or very damp, these problems will have to be taken into consideration. Is this a warmer or cooler house? If it is much warmer, you may have to consider lowering the thermostat to return to the cooler conditions that are closer to the condition which produced winning violets at your other house. When you started growing, you must have set up for all the variables that existed in your other house and have failed to change to your winning system when the situation changed. You also need to consider whether you need to make some adjustments to the soil mix, especially if the mix is drying out too quickly or staying wet too long. Over time the quality of the peatmoss seems to have altered, and not for the better in our area. This might be one of the factors that has changed in your growing regime. At this point I'm sifting peatmoss through a 1/4" sieve to remove the lumps of coarse peat where once it was a very nice consistency. You may find that the old mix you were using may not be best and a change to another brand or mixing your own is necessary. If the house is more humid, you probably need to provide a lighter mix that doesn't hold as much moisture. If it's drying too quickly, add additional peat moss. This is really a time to take stock and do some careful experimenting. Use only a small amount of soil mix at a time and only three or four plants to find the ideal mix. The same goes for light hours. Begin with half hour changes and work from there.

At the risk of hurting your feelings, do you spend as

much time with your plants as you did before the move? There is a direct relationship between the hours spent in caring for your African violets and the results you achieve. Looking at your violets each day and knowing how they are doing as well as feeding, turning, and grooming is the unromantic reality of growing beautiful plants. The carbon dioxide in your breath does wonders.

**QUESTION:** *I'm new to African violets and attended my first show a few days ago where I bought several plants. My daughter had already given me a very nice plant, blue with lots of white on it that bloomed several times and was very beautiful, but when it came into bloom this time it was solid blue. Will it return to the blue with white next time it blooms?*

**ANSWER:** Some of the growers will tell you that they have the plant return to the blue with white combination, but I have never had it happen for me. Once a plant has become solid, they almost never have the special markings or edge that drew you to that plant. If you get a plant from a leaf of this plant that does have those traits, try growing it in a cooler location, or on the bottom shelf. Variegated and thumb print patterns as well as fantasies and splatters all seem to do better in cooler climates than we have in southern California, which indicates to me that less heat for those varieties is desirable.

**QUESTION:** *The lower leaves on my plant are growing straight up as well as the flower stems. What can I do to make them form a normal rosette of leaves?*

**ANSWER:** This phenomena is called reaching. You don't say if it is just one plant or all of your plants in which this is occurring. If it is just one plant, I would opt to find another plant unless the blooms are something extra special and you can use them in flower arrangements. Some plants seem to have this fault, and there is nothing you can do. If, however, they are all doing this, and since you are a new grower, it sounds like you have a light problem. If this is not a new set-up, try adjusting the lights to a lower position or raise the plants nearer the lights by placing them on overturned saucers or pots. They may be too far away from the light source. It's very possible you have too much light. When starting with two new florescent lights, as with a new grow cart, reduce the light hours that were recommended for the first two or three weeks to eight or nine hours, then increase the hours at weekly intervals by only one half hour until you reach the time recommended. I find most people do very well growing at twelve hours a day. It's a good rule to avoid putting two new florescent tubes into the fixture at one time. As a precaution, only change one tube in a six month period and be sure you mark which tube needs to be changed.

**QUESTION:** *I have a three year old who helps me water the plants. I was wondering if African*

*violets are poisonous. Someone mentioned at work that they are bad for pets, so I was wondering about kids?*

**ANSWER:** In all the lists of poisonous plants I've read, there was never a mention of African violets. I'm only going by personal experience, but two Kerry Blue Terriers got up on a bed and proceeded to trim off the African violet leaves they could reach on a card table one Sunday afternoon while we were away. They didn't even feel remorse, which I felt was my due. Worst yet, they weren't even my violets, as my sister was on a trip to Alaska and I was baby sitting her plants. It took daily turning (fortunately I had sufficient time) before they returned home (four weeks) to have round plants once more!! I'm sure touching and being in close contact will only benefit the violets and make your daughter feel she is performing a very important service.

**QUESTION:** *I love African violets, but my grandmother once told me that they don't survive in kitchens with gas stoves. Is this true? I won't start a collection if I'm going to kill them.*

**ANSWER:** The gas stove is probably not an asset in growing African violets; however, I've grown them in my kitchen which has both a gas oven and stove without ill effects. If the plants are over the sink, with the extra humidity, they seem to thrive where I've seen violets in the kitchen. Most appliances these days are well vented and free of noxious fumes. You could consult with your gas company for advice about how to protect yourself and plants from injury due to gas fumes if you are still concerned.

When I read the questions written by people that are new to African violets, I feel as if there should be some way to explain the great complexity of the African violet. If you start with the fact that violets are quite unstable, which has proved a huge advantage and offers us great diversity and incredibly beautiful blossoms as well as the intricate foliage, varied shapes, and colors, you would be hard pressed to enumerate all the changes that have taken place in the course of 50 years. When I first began growing, most variegated foliage was referred to as "Tommy Lou" and "Champion". Also, while there were quite a few edged blossoms, mostly white were in the minority. Since 1978, it seems we have moved light years away from those plants and now have many fantasies, two color edges, and variegation now sports pinks, tans, cream, as well as white and various hues of green. Recently, there have been a great many more blooms with thumb print markings introduced and exciting new color combinations. Because of the plant's character, it has been possible to make incredible crosses. If you are aware of the plant's character, you are in a better position to understand what goes on with the plants under your care. However, the plants are much like the people that admire them. When we have so many types of people, you will need to adapt any instructions you receive to your needs as well as the African violets. When someone tells you how they grow, keep in mind that the person is giving you the benefit of his/her experience and all the baggage of that

person's life. Whether they work, have unlimited means, are very conscientious, or have a health problem will play a part in the information they present. You need to keep in mind what you are willing to do, whether it's going to be practical

for you, and whether it will be too expensive for the family budget. Tailor the hobby for your needs.

**Name of columnist replying is in bold print**



## Speakin' Cajun

by Elmer Godeny  
(Part 1 of 4)

Southern Louisiana is a mixture of many cultures: Spanish, French, Isleños, African, Creole and Acadian, to name a few. When you come to Baton Rouge for some "*Louisiana Lagniappe*" at the 2003 AVSA National Convention, you will want to speak the language. Listed below and in the next three issues of this magazine will be a glossary of terms and definitions to help you acquire our Cajun tongue. Many of these definitions are provided by Louisiana's internationally known Chef John Folse.

**Lagniappe** (lan'-yap) - Cajun for "something extra", an unexpected nice surprise. Example: the extra doughnut in a baker's dozen.

**Bayou** (buy'-u) - an arm, outlet or tributary of a lake, river, stream, etc. Any stagnant or sluggish creek, marshy lake or the like.

**Cajun** (cay'-jun) - Slang for Acadians, the French-speaking people who migrated to South Louisiana from Nova

Scotia in the 18th century. Cajuns were happy removed from city life, preferring a rustic life along the bayous. The term now applies to the people, the cooking, and the culture.

**Creole** (cree'-ol) - The word originally described those people of mixed French and Spanish blood who migrated from Europe or were born in Southeast Louisiana. The term has expanded and now embraces a type of cuisine and a style of architecture.

**Fais do do** (fay-doe-doe) - The name for a party where traditional Cajun dance is performed. This phrase literally means "to make sleep", although the parties are the liveliest of occasions.

**Grillades** (Gree'-yads) - Squares of braised beef or veal. Grillades and grits are a popular local breakfast.

**Laissez les bon temps roulez** (lay'-zay-lay-bohn-tohn-roo'-lay) - "Let the good times roll".



## It's a Celebration! Time to Celebrate Your Favorites!

Are you all ready to join in the Mardi Gras spirit? I hope so! We're heading to Baton Rouge, Louisiana for the 2003 AVSA Convention and Show. The warmth of Louisiana's hospitality is rivaled only by its Cajun cooking! I feel a party coming on! We'll have lots to celebrate!

You can begin the celebration now. Offer an award for your favorite African violet! Just send awards for your favorite plants before the July 15 deadline and they will appear in the Special Named Varieties Award list in the Sept/Oct AVM. That gives everyone an opportunity to grow them and win!

Awards have already been received for: Sundown Trail, Ozio, The Alps, Concord, and (Maas') Mark. A full listing of Special Awards will appear in the Jan/Feb AVM.

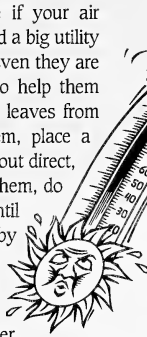
Send your awards, payable in U.S. funds to:

**Sue Hoffmann**, AVSA Awards Chairman  
801 North Villier Court  
Virginia Beach, VA 23452  
(757) 463-5383 or [susan.hoffmann@juno.com](mailto:susan.hoffmann@juno.com)

# Get Your Violets Ready for Summer

Wow! It's hot outside and probably inside if your air conditioner is like mine and set fairly high to avoid a big utility bill. Was that sweat I saw on my violets? Gosh! Even they are suffering! There are a few things you can do to help them through the heat of the summer. To prevent the leaves from getting sunburned, don't put sunscreen on them, place a sheer curtain or blind across the window to block out direct, hot sun. If there is another place you can move them, do so. You can even cover them with tissue paper until the sun moves to a different position. If you grow by a window, make sure the leaves are not touching the glass. Mini-blinds are another solution. Open only enough for light, but not direct sun.

If you grow under lights, that presents another set of problems. You may have to reduce the light hours or turn them off on extremely hot days if they are creating too much heat. Put a thermometer among your plants and watch the temperature. Use a fan on hot days to circulate the air, but



don't let it blow directly on your plants. Increase the amount of water and reduce the amount of fertilizer. Plants transpire more when it is hot and dry. Thus, use more water. Also, evaporation of water in your reservoirs will result in plants getting an extra strong dose of fertilizer.

If the humidity is too low, you can correct this by putting jars of water among your plants or misting your plants. Remember, if you are misting to use hot water. Hold the sprayer twelve inches or so from the plants, and the water will be cool by the time it reaches the leaves. Otherwise, you will have spots on your leaves from cold water hitting them. Also, don't let plants sit in direct sunlight when the leaves are wet. Just like you, your plants need to be cool and comfortable through the hot summer months, especially in Texas - May through October!

*From the Victoria AVS Newsletter, Texas*

## FAVORITE TOOLS

Each of you have favorite tools you use while working with and on your violets. I thought it would be fun to share some of these. From several email lists, here is a collection of items they use.

1. A squeeze mustard bottle for watering.
2. Turkey baster for watering small babies.
3. 1/8 tsp. and 1/4 tsp. plastic measuring spoons. (Tupperware makes a 1/8)
4. Dosage eye dropper for measuring drops.
5. Tweezers, regular and/or surgical.
6. Iced tea spoon.
7. Rubber covered baby spoon.
8. Hobby knife.
9. Tiny scissors.
10. Chopsticks.
11. Toenail scissors.
12. Toothpicks.
13. Small pickle fork for digging.
14. Chopsticks.
15. Cardboard drink carrier like you get with takeout drink orders.

16. Crochet hooks of various sizes.
17. Waterproof marker.
18. Solo bathroom cups, 3 oz.
19. Magnifying glass.
20. Make-up brush for brushing leaves.
21. Baby hair brush same as above.
22. Acrylic yarn or panty hoses for wicks.
23. Hair pins or bobby pins for pinning plants in place.
24. Ice pick.
25. Detergent scoops for soil mix, perlite, etc.
26. Sucker plucker - ceramic cleaning tool.
27. Razor blade.
28. Styrofoam meat trays.
29. Plastic grocery bags.
30. Paint can opener.
31. Various dental tools.
32. Spray bottles.
33. Pump-style nasal spray bottle (not the squeeze type). Makes a very fine spray mist for misting your plants.

*From the Victoria AVS Newsletter, Texas*



### August 24 & 25 - MISSOURI

Gateway West Gesneriad Society Show/Sale  
Missouri Botanical Garden  
4344 Shaw Blvd  
St. Louis, MO  
Both Days: 9am - 5pm  
Info: Betty Briscoe (314) 645-4960

### September 14 & 15 - CALIFORNIA

Delta Gesneriad and AVS, AVSA Judged Show/Sale  
Sacramento Garden and Arts Center  
3330 McKinley Blvd,  
Sacramento, CA  
Sept 14 - 2pm - 5pm  
Sept 15 - 10am - 4pm  
Info: Oscar Faoro (916) 421 - 8833

# 2002 AVSA Awards

## **Hudson Award for Affiliate Leadership**

To: **Paul F. Kroll**, East Aurora, New York

Paul Kroll has been a member of AVSA since 1965. He was such an enthusiastic member that he had an article printed in the magazine that same year.

He has been a member of the AVS of Western New York since 1970. During those years, he has held every office on the Board of Directors except Treasurer. He has been the President for two terms, each one extending to a double term, and is still on the board as a director, helping plan the celebration of the Society's 50th Anniversary.

Paul is talented in growing African violets and gesneriads, and is generous with his time in helping others improve their growing skills.

His talents also include design. He has written the design schedule for many shows, and his entries have won him many awards. Paul has led numerous workshops on design at home and in Syracuse, Ottawa, Toronto, and Calgary, Alberta.

Paul is interested in the species and has given lectures about them to Bay State in Massachusetts and at the convention of the African Violet Society of Canada in Toronto.

The benefits of his leadership qualities are far-reaching. Paul spent many years on the Board of the New York State AVS and is a past president, he is President of the New York State Judges' Council, serves as the U.S. representative on the AVS of Canada Board, and is Corresponding Secretary on the AGGS Board. Paul is an active member of the AVSA Judges' Council - Ontario, the Toronto Gesneriad Society, and the Gesneriadists of Western New York. This year he is leading his home society in their efforts to affiliate with both AVSA and AGGS.

This senior AVSA judge and teacher has taught judging schools in Rochester, Syracuse, Toronto, and Calgary, and accepted the challenge of teaching the 2002 AVSA's Convention Judging School in Washington, D.C. As a master judge of Gesneriads, he has taught at convention schools, has been the Judges' Chairman at convention shows, and has worked on the committee to revise the handbook.

Paul retired recently from his occupation as a music teacher, and is planning to assist as vice Show Chairman, Design Chair and Judges' Chair of the AVSC convention in Toronto - May 2003. His presence is felt at every meeting he attends because he brings quiet confidence, enthusiasm, and sincerity of purpose, something that is infectious and valuable to the society.

## **Honorary Life Membership**

To: **Bill Lyons**, Leavittown, Pennsylvania

Bill Lyons is a longtime AVSA member. He has faithfully served the Society as a Director, a member of the Membership and Promotion Committee, Show Co-Vice Chairman in 1993 for the Lancaster convention (where his wife, Kay, served as the Show Chairman), and became the Booster Fund Chairman in 1995. Unfortunately, health problems forced him to resign this position in 2001. His tireless dedication, guidance, and knack for writing personal letters worked wonders! When he took over the Booster Fund Committee, annual donations were between \$1500-\$1700. Thanks to Bill, they now average between \$6000-\$7000.

Bill is an AVSA Life Member, Senior Judge, and Teacher. He was awarded an Honorary One-Year Membership in 1994, and was presented with the Hudson Memorial Award for Affiliate Leadership in 1996. He is a Charter member of the African Violet Society of Lower Bucks County, PA, helped to start the AVS of Burlington, NJ and the African Violet Club of Morris County, NJ. He has been an active member in the TriState African Violet Council, the New York State African Violet Society, and the New Jersey Judges Council.

We are pleased to recognize Bill Lyons with the AVSA Honorary Life Membership.

## **Continuing Service Award**

To: **Ruth Warren**, Tiverton, Rhode Island

Ruth is well-known to most AVSA members. She has been a contributing member of AVSA for thirty-two years. In 1992, Ruth received an Honorary One-Year Membership Award. Ruth is a Life Member and a Master Judge. She has chaired the Building Maintenance Fund Committee and the AVSA Booster Fund. Ruth served on the AVSA Convention Committee for fourteen years, and the Library Committee for twelve years, as well as being an AVSA Director. Ruth and her late husband, Bert, were devoted members of the Library Committee for many years. Not only has Ruth attended twenty-three conventions, she was the Convention Chairman for the 1990 AVSA convention in Boston.

Ruth has been instrumental in organizing judging schools in New England for many years, and has been an active mem-



ber of the Judges Council of Massachusetts. As well as AVSA, Ruth is a member of MAAVS, has served in many capacities including president of Bay State AVS, and is a member and past officer of the Moby Dick AVS.

Ruth Warren truly deserves to be recognized for her continuing service to AVSA.

### **Continuing Service Award**

To: **Jim Owens**, Columbus, Ohio

When you hear about continuing service, Jim Owens comes to mind. He became a member of AVSA in 1995, and the rest is history.

Jim jumped in to help as the Convention Assistant Tour director for AVSA from 1992-1994, and took over as Tour Director in 1995. In 1996, he was awarded an Honorary One-Year Membership.

Jim belongs to Ohio State AVSA, and has been editor of The Violet Connection, the OSAVS quarterly magazine, since 1997.

The AVSA website began in 1999. During the initial set up of the new website, Jim spent up to twelve hours each day on its development. He checks his e-mail daily to find any FAQs and forwards them to the appropriate people. He receives photos from various people, which he puts in the photo gallery, and interfaces with the programmer for enhancements that he is unable to do himself.

He is married to Linda Owens, AVSA Conventions Chairman, and worked for American Electric Power Co. in the Information Systems Department for thirty two years. He is happy to be growing his first violet from the table favors at the Chicago convention!

### **Honorary One-Year Membership**

To: **Linda Golubski**, Blue Springs, Missouri

Linda Golubski deserves a standing ovation and many thanks for an outstanding job as the AVSA Awards Committee Chairman from 1995-2001! She went above and beyond the job description and came through each year with a bigger and more substantial awards roster. Linda is a Life Member of AVSA and an Advanced Judge. She served as an AVSA Director from 1994-1997 and as the Convention Information Committee Chairman in Kansas City (1989). Several years

ago, Linda set a goal to exhibit at every AVSA Convention she attended, and we are continually rewarded with her beautiful specimens. She is also an accomplished designer, and the "local expert" on species and *Sinningias*. Her knowledge extends far and wide in the field of Gesneriads.

Linda is a member and past president of Unpredictables AVS, past president and past treasurer of the Missouri Valley AV Council, and past president of Midwest AV Judges Council.

Thank you Linda, for all your tireless work to see others rewarded for their efforts. You truly deserve this Honorary One-Year Membership.

### **Honorary One-Year Membership**

To: **Anna Jean Landgren**, Evanston, Illinois

Anna Jean Landgren has been active in the African violet world for many years. She is well known to AVSA members through her Tally Time column in the AVM. She has served as a Director on the AVSA Board twice, worked with her late husband, photographer George, on the AVSA Library committee, and served as the Show Chairman for the AVSA 2001 Convention in Chicago. Her many qualifications also include being an AVSA Master Judge.

Affiliate clubs have gained a lot from Anna Jean's contributions. She is a member and past president of AVS of Northern Illinois, served as show chairman for the Lake Shore AVS in Illinois, and is just completing a four-year term as President of Illinois AVS - where she also dedicated fifteen years as their Membership Chairman.

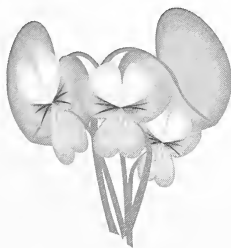
In life outside the violet world, Anna Jean has been President of the Evanston (Illinois) Women's Club, and is proud to have started a junior choir at her church.

### **Honorary One-Year Membership**

To: **Carol Allegretti**, Woodstock, Illinois

The African Violet Society of America is pleased to present an Honorary One-Year Membership Award to Carol Allegretti for serving as the Chicago Convention Chairman in 2001.

Carol has enjoyed growing African violets for a long time. She joined AVSA in 1976, and is currently an active member of the Illinois African Violet Society and Lake Shore African Violet Society. Carol is an AVSA Advanced Judge.



# My Favorite African Violet or Indiana Jones and the Violet of Doom

by Richard Follett • Strasburg, VA

An on-line friend recently transmitted a simple query which thundered into my comfortable life like the Riddle of the Sphinx. It all started with a single question – "Which is your favorite African violet?"

For true African violet addicts, this is nigh on impossible to answer. I am always in love with whatever is blooming at the moment. Each new color or shape of blossom charms me all over again as it unfolds. That being said, there is no question that my all-time favorite African violet is a plain purple single standard with bright yellow anthers and pointed, stalwart dark olive green red-backed leaves – the African violet my grandmother gave me when I was twelve years old and the one that started my African violet adventure. It is now thirty-one years old and still growing strong! It is by no means the most elegant or exotic *Saintpaulia* in my collection, but it has always been my tried-and-true friend and companion – a constant reminder of my grandmother Helen's undying devotion.

My favorite CONTEMPORARY African violet is an eager semiminature trailer given to me by an office co-worker nine years ago. She was a flamboyant woman whose life was peppered with infinite intrigue and imagination – a marvelous natural storyteller.

Long before I knew that there are hundreds of varieties of trailing African violets in every conceivable color, shape, and size, I listened in wide-eyed wonder as she told me she had grown it from illicit leaves pinched from a hanging basket and smuggled out of Washington, D.C.'s Smithsonian Institution.

She conveyed in a vivid, hushed staccato the moment-by-moment, heart-stopping series of near-apprehensions and reversals which punctuated the infinitely complex, impulsive operation. She gravely informed me that the Smithsonian held



the patent, that there was no other African violet anything like it anywhere in the world, and that she would surely be imprisoned for life if I breathed even a word of the story to the authorities. I was utterly transfixed for an entire lunch hour, and subsequently hooked for life. When she presented me with a with a leaf cutting upon her

mysterious and abrupt departure from the company to embark upon a world tour with an obscure but splendid European noble, I felt more breathlessly honored than words could ever describe.

At first, as my contraband treasure grew and multiplied, I shared the story, and an occasional leaf cutting, with only the most intimate in my social circle. As time went by, however, I found myself becoming so fond of repeating and embellishing the epic story that I routinely shared leaves upon first acquaintance or, by referral, with complete strangers who inevitably became new friends.

Only recently did one of those selfsame new friends inform me that my clandestine prize is actually a plucky, widely-grown variety of trailing African violet called 'Peppermint Trail', featured in a July/August 1990 African Violet Magazine photo spread. This potentially humbling revelation has made me cherish the plant and the memory all the more and has added a rich new dimension to the continuing saga.

Although my personal collection of trailing African violets now numbers in the dozens, I hold 'Peppermint Trail' in unparalleled esteem. I have long since lost track of the high spirited, globe-hopping gypsy enchantress who first blazed the mark of 'Peppermint Trail' upon my consciousness, but its cheery pink blooms remain a constant joy and a treasured memento of high adventure in the youth of my African violet odyssey.



## AVSA Affiliates

Bev Promersberger - *Affiliate Committee*

7992 Otis Way

Pensacola, FL 32506

Promers22@hotmail.com

Congratulations and welcome to new clubs in Georgia and Tennessee

### Chattanooga African Violet Club

President: Charles Ridings

1735 Eagle Drive

Hixson, TN 37343

423-842-1977

### East Ridge African Violet Society

President: Kay Red Horse

P.O. Box 81

Chickamauga, GA 30707-0081

706-375-3476

### Gulf Coast African Violet Society

President: Glen Kertz

3484 Pheasant Street

Orange, TX 77630

# My Method of Growing To Show

by Barbara Cook

I started growing African violets seriously in 1968. My mom, who was a charter member of the Moby Dick club and a member of Bay State, grew outstanding violets. I went to the Moby Dick African Violet Show in 1968 with my mom where she showed several plants and won several top awards. I was so impressed, really caught the bug, and ended up buying several plants from the sales table.

I joined Moby Dick and Bay State, and in 1969 showed for the first time. My mom was a good teacher. I entered six plants in my first show, received five blue ribbons, one red ribbon, and won the award for Best Plant in the Show over sixteen inches. That was the beginning. I showed at every Moby Dick and Bay State show from then on, often taking 100 violets to the shows, most of them being over sixteen inches across.

My first National Convention was in 1972 in New York City where I won several awards including 3rd Best in Show with a plant called 'John Bradshaw', a Canadian hybrid. The Convention was coming to Boston in 1975 and that was my dream - to do well at a home convention. Well, I really did do well, winning the Best In Show along with many other top awards. The plant that won Best In Show was a Granger Gardens' hybrid called 'Lavender Delight'. After that convention, John and I went commercial. As the mail order business grew, I was showing less and less as I no longer had the room to grow those large show plants.

Now I will try to remember how I grew those show plants.

First, you want to start with a healthy, small plant in a 2 1/2 inch pot. You want a plant that is growing nicely and symmetrically even when it is that small. Be sure the plant blooms true before you start disbudding for show. You can look at which varieties are winning at the violet shows. These are usually good varieties to start with.

For lighting, I use a combination of one Cool White fluorescent tube and one Gro-Lux Wide Spectrum tube in each fixture. I leave them on for 12 hours a day, changing the bulbs once a year after the show is over. Only change one bulb at a time though, as putting in two new bulbs at the same time will be too much light and will shock your plants. Change the second one about two weeks later.

I fertilize, alternating between Peter's 20-20-20 and Peter's 15-16-17. Once a month, I use a Bounty/Sturdy combination. I also use Superthrive at the rate of 1 drop per gallon of water, along with the fertilizer. When letting the

plants come into bloom for show, I switch from 20-20-20 to Peter's 5-50-17 to push the bloom.

Grooming your violets is very important. You should be grooming your show plants right from the beginning by removing any leaves that are limp, yellow, marred, or spoil the symmetry of the plant. The plants should grow symmetrically with the foliage growing like the spokes of a wheel, each row overlapping the row below it. Also, be sure there are no suckers on the plant and no necks. Keep the plants clean by brushing the foliage with a very soft brush. They can also be washed using warm water with a dishwashing liquid such as Ivory added to the water. To do this, I fill the sink with the warm, soapy water. Then I wrap Saran Wrap around the top of the pot and under the leaves to keep the soil from spilling out. Then gently wash the leaves in the water. Rinse with the spray nozzle using a very gentle spray of warm water. Keep the plants out of window light and away from cold drafts until dry.

In the spring, after choosing which plants I wanted to grow for show for the following spring and being sure they had bloomed true, I would disbud the plants by taking all the buds and blossoms off. All buds and blossoms are kept off for the entire year. This allows all the strength to go into the foliage instead of into blossoms, making the plant grow stronger and larger. Leaf supports are kept on the plants from the time they are in a four inch pot. This protects the leaves from resting on the edge of the pot and becoming damaged.

I would start letting them come into bloom about six or seven weeks before the show. This is something you have to play around with. My growing area is very warm so they come into bloom very quickly. Many people have to allow seven or eight weeks for the plants to come into full bloom. Single blossom varieties take about one week less.

Pack your plants in a good, strong box with a cover because it could be raining, windy, or cold when you are going to the show.

Before entering the plants, they should get one more once over, looking for any suckers, spent blossoms, etc. Give the foliage one more brushing to be sure it is clean. Be sure to remove any name tags and leaf supports. Your name and the name of the plant should be put on the bottom of the pot before removing the name tag. Then enter your plants and good luck.

*From Ye Bay Stater, publication of the Bay State AVS*



# Thinking Small



**Pat Richards**

15105 S. Seminole Drive  
Olathe, KS 66062-3004  
email: [Patter257@aol.com](mailto:Patter257@aol.com)

The previous few columns have been very seriously oriented toward growing the best miniature/semiminature African violet possible. I don't know about you, but I'm a little tired of these somber tones, and would like to have a few more light and enjoyable columns for a while. Today, let's begin by discussing why people should grow these diminutive violets.

## TINY TREASURES

Eighteen inches. That's all. A mere foot and a half, and I have sunshine, bright colors, and inspiration around me. Every morning I waken, and the foliage and flowers are there to astound me. At night, as I walk wearily down the hall to the bedroom, I am able to give one last thought to my several violets which have spent so much energy all day long to produce beautiful foliage and delicate flowers for me. They are tiny storehouses of energy and beauty. Like me, they have worked hard all day long to produce small but constant benefits, and the result is a sense of satisfaction and a smile as I bid them good night.

So simple. A small amount of space, a smidgeon of good, adequate light, water now and then perhaps accented by a dash of fertilizer, and the warmth of your breath. That is all your small African violet needs in order to provide you with a little bit of happiness. Not to oversimplify (that's what all my other columns address), but to remind that the culture of miniature/semiminature African violets can be easy, and that overdoing it can make growing them cumbersome, a chore, and a dreaded experience. This is a simple reminder that life is short, and a small accent of nature and creation is easily attainable in our everyday lives all year long and can provide benefits to us beyond what is initially thought.

The key is keep it simple. Keep it small. Keep it focused. Manage what you can. Minis and semis are tiny treasures which become small blessings in this rushed, hurried world. Find a small window, a countertop, a small florescent light, and introduce a tiny treasure to your life.

## A FEW SELECTIONS

Exactly which ones am I growing in my treasure garden?

How about 'Rob's Jitterbug'; have you tried this spectacular cultivar? Perfect, and I mean perfectly forming foliage which is small and stays in size, lovely, abundantly produced blooms of sheer, chiffon-like, almost cornflower blue flowers touched with a fine white edge. They're pansy shaped singles, sometimes with a small tuft in the center, with small pollen sacs that don't capture a lot of attention. Instead, it's the sugar-dusted, glittering blue blooms that provide the focus. I have grown this one in my regular growing room, in a simulated terrarium environment, and now, in my personal display. No matter where it's grown, it's outstanding. The only drawback is it has very slight variegation on its dark, slightly serrated foliage. Yes, it has some, but you have to look very hard to find it, which is very unfortunate. From this standpoint, it's not for show growing as some judges may be too harsh on it, but from every other aspect it is purely outstanding. My own "bedroom" plant has been in bloom for five months now, and shows no signs of stopping. In a word, this cultivar is spectacular!

How about 'Rob's Macho Devil'? This is an oldie, but oh my, what a goodie! Again, perfectly forming, easily variegating foliage of medium green with pink, ivory, and white edging. It blooms steadily, with single blooms of dusty red fuchsia with a good amount of sugar glitter which captures and holds the eye! The blooms are extremely long lasting, the one I'm looking at has been open for 7-8 weeks now, and is just now fading. Not a problem though, as three new stalks have sprung up to take its place. What a stalwart performer!

Hopefully many of you are familiar with 'Orchard's Bumble Magnet', the delicately impressive pink blossomed miniature which doubles as a prohibitive show favorite, but do you also grow 'Orchard's Wonder Twin', its paler sport? Its foliage is pure, light to emerald green with no red backing. The double blooms, although described as being white, for me are very pale pink with rosy eyes, and may be yet another worthy sport. Like 'Orchard's Bumble Magnet', it, too, blooms non-stop and in great abundance. It's not an incredibly sophisticated or flashy plant, just reliable, dependable, and quite simple in presentation.

Another hybrid I've overlooked but am thoroughly

impressed with is 'Rob's Silly Sally', which, unlike 'Orchard's Wonder Twin', is full of flash and panache and glorious contrast! Let's start with the foliage, which is rounded and slightly cupped. It's dark green, with white and pink Tommie-Lou variegation. This cultivar becomes simply outstanding when topped by a multitude of hot pink blooms. Talk about contrast! It simply draws your eye and sucks you in.

Along with these older cultivars, I'm growing three of Rob's new ones. The first is 'Rob's Slap Happy', with lovely Champion variegation. Its foliage is medium green, with a crown of yellow and rosy pink. It appears to be a larger growing semiminature. Its blooms have yet to make an appearance, but it does look promising. The second is 'Rob's Love Bite', a true tiny treasure! This miniature will stay small, and has lovely, dark foliage with peachy/brown/pink Champion variegation. Its symmetry is perfect, and the foliage lays flat. As of this writing, it has one bud above the foliage which I can tell will be dark red, but that's all! I'm sorry to leave you in suspense but will report on the actual bloom in the next article. The final one is 'Rob's Bed Bug', a disciplined semiminature showing Champion variegation with yet again different coloration. This one's foliage size is between the above two, being medium green, with yellow, tan, and pink variegation. Its foliage is the most "closed" growing of the three (meaning it has the fewest "gaps" and lays the most flat), and has yet to develop a flower bud. Please note: all of these plants were obtained as very small starter plants, so please don't judge their blooming by this writing. Besides, their foliage is decorative and different enough that they are still welcome in my small plant garden!

Another Saintpaulia gracing my personal, private collection is an older semiminature trailer, 'Aca's Genuine Jackie'. This plant, acquired many years ago, has been carried through

in either my or my sister's collection, one of us keeping it alive for the other, for many, many years now. 'Aca's Genuine Jackie', a Brownlee introduction registered in early 1985, has some of the most beautiful pink, green, and white variegation on pointed, notched foliage you'll ever see on a trailing African violet. The foliage is decorative by itself, but becomes undeniably exquisite when topped by luscious, creamy pink double blooms. It easily puts on multiple crowns, and is a disciplined grower. In the world of "special" plants, this one rates highly!

#### OOPS!!

A few columns ago I indicated I was experimenting with growing plants in an overturned, clear plastic, bakery style flat cake container. These worked well for some variegated, "warmer" growing minis and semis I grow (most notably, the Pittman cultivars), in my cool growing plant room. However, when I tried this same technique in my upstairs growing area which is much warmer even in winter, the results were disastrous! I ended up with plants which were not growing, were reaching for light, and which lost their centers from the too-great humidity and upward reaching foliage. Once these plants were removed and moved to regular house conditions (several of them to my bedroom), they began to grow and thrive. Moral of the story: experiment with only a few plants at a time and have a very watchful, cautious eye. Your plants will tell you everything you need to know!

#### NEXT TIME

The next column will be the convention review. I'll be able to tell you about the blooms on the three new 'Rob's' introductions, plus review all the many beautiful entries in the show. Take care and good growing!

## \$10,000 for 10,000

The African Violet Society of America, Inc. has registered over 9,000 cultivars. We are approaching the awesome number of 10,000. There could be great marketing value to whomever receives that designation for a new cultivar. AVSA will entertain bids for the right to name the 10,000th cultivar with the starting price of \$10,000. Would you like to attach "Ten Grand" or "Ten K" to your choice of a name? Perhaps you would like to honor a loved one? AVSA reserves the right of refusal if the chosen name does not comply with regulations of the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants. What do you bid?

# Who Can Be a Judges' Clerk?

by Mickey Womack • Dallas, Texas

This past November I had a wonderful opportunity to participate in the Lone Star State Show as a judge's clerk. What an experience! I was placed with a panel of judges that consisted of advanced, senior, and master judges. A little intimidating for a hobby grower but if you want to run with the big dogs...well, you know how that goes.

So here's little ol' me rubbing elbows with some top growers in our field and not really sure what I was in for. It was one of the most rewarding experiences I could have participated in. Most of all, I truly watched every judge place ribbons on the plants based on beauty, not flaws. These judges know their stuff, and they all were focused on the plant's symmetry, not the missing leafs, the healthy condition, not the various spots and tears, and the gorgeous flowers, not the lack of blossoms. Each plant was fairly judged against a "set" standard and not against any other plant in the room. Each plant was admired for its own particular qualities.

As a hobby grower, it can be really scary to enter a show not believing that any plant on your shelf is worthy of the coveted blue ribbon. If this is a fear of yours, go clerk a show!

You will find that each plant is appreciated for its own qualities and judged accordingly. One of the purposes of the show is to challenge and encourage club members to grow better plants. You will be encouraged by the judge's acknowledgment of the beauty of each plant and challenged by the things the judge notes for improvement.

The single best encouragement to enter that next show is to take the time to be a clerk. All it takes is a few short hours helping a panel of judges, and you reap the rewards of an free education.

Also, you are the first person to see the awards for the entire the show!

What is the "technical" side of being a clerk?

## Who can be a judge's clerk?

Anyone who has the desire to learn more about African violets and participate in the inner workings of an African violet show can be a clerk. It's easy, it's fun, and it's free! And, it's the best way to learn about violets from the experts.

## What is a judge's clerk?

An AVSA Standard Show is a show sponsored by one or more AVSA affiliate clubs, and conforms to the requirements as set forth in the AVSA Scale of Points (for judging an AVSA Standard Show), and the show is judged by AVSA Judges. Shows are judged to help improve the overall quality of the show.

The Judge's committee determines how many judges are needed, depending upon the number of entries. The judges are divided up into panels, or teams, and assigned different classes of the show to judge. This way, there are multiple teams judging various areas of the show, all at the same time.

Each panel of judges is responsible for assigning a point value to the show plant based on "merit". The plants are judged only against a set standard for African violets and not against any other plant. This way the individual participant is only competing against himself, not every grower entered in the show. This should take some of the anxiety out of entering your first show. It isn't a competition. It's a way to measure the condition of your plant as compared to a set standard. Plants are judged for beauty, not flaws.

So, what is a judges clerk?

During the judging time, the judges need helpers, or clerks, to assist them. The judges can't leave the area to get extra pens, or have questions answered, so the clerk is there to help out.

## What is the role of a judges clerk?

There are two clerks per panel of judges. One clerk's primary responsibility is to record the awards, as decided by the judges, on the entry sheets. This is nothing more than noting on the entry sheet whether the specimen received a blue, red, or white ribbon or any other special award.

The second clerk's primary responsibility is to place the ribbons and awards. As the judges tell clerk #1 what ribbon and/or award to give each plant, clerk #2 goes to the awards table and collects the applicable ribbons and places them next to each plant.

In addition to these primary responsibilities, the clerks might be asked to retrieve pens, pencils, erasers, show schedules, water, etc. The clerks are there to see to the judge's needs. The clerks might be asked to confirm MVL descriptions, names, classifications or retrieve the Show Chairman.

The clerks should know the basic rules of the show as listed in the show schedule. Just reviewing the schedule and making sure you have read the rules is a good start. The clerks should know where the various classes are located in the show room and which classes their panel will judge. This information is readily available from the judge's chairman, and they are happy to help you familiarize yourself with the show layout and assignments.

## Where do clerks come from?

We have beginners, amateur growers, hobby growers,

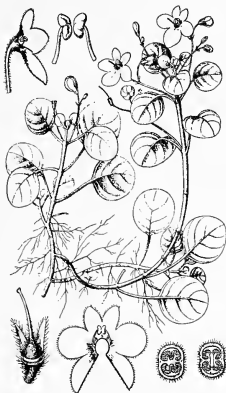
commercial growers, and master violet growers participating as clerks. It's an excellent opportunity to learn about African violets and how they grow. What better way to learn about the different varieties, sizes, colors, and growing habits of violets and gesneriads? In addition, the different perspective that each individual judge has when observing the plants is very informative. There is a lot to learn. Anyone can learn more about violets, no matter how much experience they have.

### When are clerks needed?

Every AVSA Judged Show needs clerks. These helpers are the unsung heroes. The clerk needs to be available during the time that the judges are judging the show, and then their job is done. It's a great way to get your "feet wet" helping with a violet show and learn a lot about our hobby.

When's your next show? Will you be a clerk?

*From the Lone Star AVC Newsletter*



# Don't Pollinate Streps too Soon

by John Beaulieu

*with comment by Connie Leifeste*

I find that it is fairly common with *Streptocarpus* seedlings that they often start blooming before they start to grow more than one leaf. When these first blooms appear, I usually get quite impatient and want to pollinate flowers of selected seedlings when they have these first blooms. I have noticed that growth stops once the seed pod starts forming and very often the plant dies right back after the pods are mature. I have lost many promising seedlings this way. Sure, I get the new hybrid seed, but the original plant is gone.

I mentioned this problem in one of the round robin letters of the Gesneriad Hybridizers Association. It seems that I am not the only one that has noticed this problem. Other hybridizers such as Dale Martens have also seen this happen. Connie Leifeste, a Texas hybridizer and Gesneriad News subscriber wrote the following explanation in the round robin letter:

"The problem you describe, John, may be that the T-cells (where the seeds actually develop on the wall of the ovary after fertilization) are not mature enough to support both plant growth and reproduction at the same time. When you do paraffin cross sections (cutting the ovary in half so that one can examine the wall of the ovary as a ring or circle) followed by subsequent sections and examinations at three or four month intervals, the change in the structural development is striking. In young plants the T-cells may be distin-

guished as tiny 'nubs' and are not so numerous as to completely surround the wall of the ovary. As the plant ages, however, the T-cells become physically larger, present in great numbers, and are easily distinguished by the characteristic 'T' shape. This trait, 'slow maturity' (for want of a better term), is dominant in *Streptocarpus kentaniensis*, *faciatus*, *roseoalbus*, the parviflorus group and several unifoliate we have examined. As a result, I have had better success by allowing young plants to go through at least two bloom cycles, sometimes three, before I attempt pollination."

Connie's advice is good. I have not allowed any pollinated 'first blooms' on my *Streptocarpus* seedlings to continue, and I have not lost any seedlings to this premature death syndrome that I had been experiencing in the past. As a matter of fact, after the first bloom has opened, I remove the flower stem and all others that follow until the seedling has produced a substantial number of leaves and shows vigorous growth. I do let the first flower open so I can see if there is any potential to keep the plant as a selection for possible naming, propagation, and future hybridizing. I do not have the room to grow on all seedlings unless they have this potential.

*From African Violet and Gesneriad News*

# AVSA BOOSTER FUND

Shirley Berger

4343 Schumacher Rd • Sebring, FL 33872

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM FEBRUARY 1 - MARCH 31, 2001

Lone Star AV Council, San Marcos, TX . . . . .	\$100.00	Martin S. Wright, Williamsville, NY . . . . .	\$5.00
<i>Apply to AVSA Office computer fund</i>		Anita E. Rudolph, Melville, NY . . . . .	5.00
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Chris Biggs, Zebulon, NC . . . . .	2.00		
Diane Esswein, Montfort, WI . . . . .	10.00		
		<b>TOTAL: . . . . .</b>	<b>\$1242.00</b>





**Iris Keating**  
149 Loretto Court  
Claremont, CA 91711

This is my final report as Plant Registrar, and I want to thank all the hybridizers who have been so friendly and cooperative throughout the many years that I have been registering their cultivars. I have gained many friends through correspondence with them, and it has been a most rewarding experience.

Thanks also to Ruth Rumsey and the office staff for all their help and support. It has been a pleasure working with them. Most of all, thanks to Lynn Lombard for her steadfast friendship, loyalty and help with columns and files throughout the years.

Please send future registration correspondence to Janice Bruns, 1220 Stratford Lane, Hanover Park, IL 60103. She is very capable, and I wish her every success.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Sylvia Harrison – Cato Ridge, South Africa**

- \***Silverglade Fiestas** (9103) 2/26/02 (S. Harrison) Single raspberry sparkle/dark orchid band. Dark green, plain. **Standard**
- \***Silverglade Laces** (9104) 2/26/02 (S. Harrison) Single-semidouble white frilled/light orchid tips. Medium green. **Standard**
- \***Silverglade Meadows** (9105) 2/26/02 (S. Harrison) Double medium pink frilled/wide white-green edge. Dark green, quilted, serrated/red back. **Standard**
- \***Silverglade Streams** (9106) 2/26/02 (S. Harrison) Semidouble cream/pink veins, green edge. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**

A name reservation costs \$1.00 and is valid for two years, after which time it may be extended two years for an additional \$1.00. Registration of the plant is \$5.00 unless completed within the reservation period, in which case the balance is then \$4.00. Please make check payable to AVSA.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Linda Stickney – Maroa, IL**

- \***Prairie Blue Moon** (9107) 3/6/02 (L. Stickney) Single medium blue frilled pansy/lighter edge. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Standard**
- \***Prairie Christmas Spirit** (9108) 3/6/02 (L. Stickney) Semidouble dark red pansy/white edge. Dark green, quilted/red back. **Standard**
- \***Prairie Circus Clown** (9109) 3/6/02 (L. Stickney) Double medium pink pansy/wide white edge. Dark green, plain/red back. **Semiminiature**
- \***Prairie Harvest Sunset** (9110) 3/6/02 (L. Stickney) Single medium coral frilled pansy. Medium green, plain. **Standard**
- \***Prairie Patchwork Quilt** (9111) 3/6/02 (L. Stickney) Single white large pansy/purple ruffled edge. Medium green, plain. **Standard**
- \***Prairie Spring Awakening** (9112) 3/6/02 (L. Stickney) Single lavender pansy/purple sparkle edge. Medium green, plain/red back. **Standard**
- \***Prairie Summer Frolic** (9113) 3/6/02 (L. Stickney) Single white ruffled pansy/purple markings. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**
- \***Prairie Winemaker** (9114) 3/14/02 (L. Stickney) Single dark wine ruffled pansy. Dark green, ovate, serrated/red back. **Small standard**

**Editorial Correction to the AVML #10, page 167**  
Optimara Little Mohawk is a Semiminiature



# Planting by Moon Signs

## Moon in Aries

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds, pests, etc., and for cultivating.

## Moon in Taurus

Productive and moist, earthy and feminine. Used for planting many crops, particularly potatoes and root crops, and when hardness is important. Also used for lettuce, cabbage, and similar leafy vegetables.

## Moon in Gemini

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds and pests, and for cultivation.

## Moon in Cancer

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. This is the most productive sign, used extensively for planting and irrigation.

## Moon in Leo

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. This is the most barren sign, used only for killing weeds and for cultivation.

## Moon in Virgo

Barren and moist, earthy and feminine. Good for cultivation and destroying weeds and pests.

## Moon in Libra

Semi-fruitful and moist, airy and masculine. Used for planting many crops and producing good pulp growth and roots. A very good sign for flowers and vines. Also used for seeding hay, corn fodder, etc.

## Moon in Scorpio

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Nearly as productive as Cancer; used for the same purposes. Especially good for vine growth and sturdiness.

## Moon in Sagittarius

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for planting onions, seeding hay, and for cultivation.

## Moon in Capricorn

Productive and dry, earthy and feminine. Used for planting potatoes, tubers, etc.

## Moon in Aquarius

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for cultivation and destroying noxious growths, weeds, and pests.

## Moon in Pisces

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Used along with Cancer and Scorpio, especially good for root growth.

May Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Mon. 2:49 pm	Aries	Fire	Barren	3rd
2 Tue.	Aries	Fire	Barren	4th 12:19 pm
3 Wed.	Aries	Fire	Barren	4th
4 Thu. 3:16 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th
6 Sat. 2:01 pm	Gemini	Air	Barren	4th
7 Sun.	Gemini	Air	Barren	4th
8 Mon. 9:56 pm	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	4th
9 Tue.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	4th
10 Wed.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	New 5:26 am
11 Thu. 2:08 am	Leo	Fire	Barren	1st
12 Fri.	Leo	Fire	Barren	1st
13 Sat. 4:41 am	Virgo	Earth	Barren	1st
14 Sun.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	1st
15 Mon. 6:59 am	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	1st
16 Tue.	Libra	Air	Semi-Fruitful	2nd 11:47 pm
17 Wed. 9:15 am	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	2nd
18 Thu.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	2nd
19 Fri 1:02 pm	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd
20 Sat.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd
21 Sun. 6:26 pm	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	2nd
22 Mon.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	2nd
23 Tue.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	2nd
24 Wed. 1:40 am	Aquarius	Air	Barren	Full 4:07 am
25 Thu.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	3rd
26 Fri. 11:04 am	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	3rd
27 Sat.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	3rd
28 Sun. 10:59 pm	Aries	Fire	Barren	3rd
29 Mon.	Aries	Fire	Barren	3rd
30 Tue.	Aries	Fire	Barren	3rd
31 Wed. 11:17 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	3rd

August Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Thu.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th 5:22 am
2 Fri. 10:46 pm	Gemini	Air	Barren	4th
3 Sat.	Gemini	Air	Barren	4th
4 Sun.	Gemini	Air	Barren	4th
5 Mon. 7:02 am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	4th
6 Tue.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	4th
7 Wed. 11:27 am	Leo	Fire	Barren	4th
8 Thu.	Leo	Fire	Barren	New 2:15 pm
9 Fri. 1:03 pm	Virgo	Earth	Barren	1st
10 Sat.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	1st
11 Sun. 1:58 pm	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	1st
12 Mon.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	1st
13 Tue. 3:01 pm	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	1st
14 Wed.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	1st
15 Thu. 6:25 pm	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd 5:12 am
16 Fri.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd
17 Sat.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd
18 Sun. 12:15 am	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	2nd
19 Mon.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	2nd
20 Tue. 8:16 am	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd
21 Wed.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd
22 Thu. 6:11 pm	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	Full 5:29 pm
23 Fri.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	3rd
24 Sat.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	3rd
25 Sun. 5:48 am	Aries	Fire	Barren	3rd
26 Mon.	Aries	Fire	Barren	3rd
27 Tue. 6:52 pm	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	3rd
28 Wed.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	3rd
29 Thu.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	3rd
30 Fri. 6:45 am	Gemini	Air	Barren	4th 9:31 pm
31 Sat.	Gemini	Air	Barren	4th

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# GOT E-MAIL? Start a Club!

Marge Savage • West Texas African Violet Society

"Why don't you start a club in Midland?" The Pittmans and the Sanders were making me feel welcome at their spring 1995 Magic Knight African Violet Show and Sale, my very first African violet show of any kind.

By spring 1999, many glorious national and state African violet shows later, I had returned home from the Houston AVSA Convention full of confidence, but LONELY. I was the only person growing African violets in all of West Texas and Southeastern New Mexico! I wanted to belong to an African violet club!

Forming a solid African violet club might be a difficult accomplishment given our wide, open spaces; but we West Texans are used to traveling long distances for things we care about. So, I e-mailed Bev Promersberger, AVSA Affiliate Chairman, and asked for her help. She promptly sent me the Affiliate startup packet and e-mailed me the names and addresses of current African Violet Magazine subscribers from Abilene to Lubbock to Carlsbad, New Mexico. Locally, I contacted the USDA Horticultural Extension Agent, a former member of the "club they used to have," and Velma Lewis. Velma had donated an award given to me at the preceding LSAVC Convention and Show. She later notified me that she was living in nearby Andrews.

All of these people received a letter mid-May which started: "I am interested in having an African Violet Club in our area which is affiliated with the African Violet Society of America." The day after the mailout three people called! Violet growers! Very excited! With an offer of a meeting place! These people spoke Violet-ese, like: Pixie Blue, Pat Hancock and Melvin J. Robey! I was NOT the only soul growing violets in the entire Southwest!

We quickly set a meeting date. Seven people attended. During this organizational meeting, I mentioned my wishes to have a club that 1) affiliated with AVSA, 2) held African violet shows and 3) planned African violet sales. The old club had died, apparently. To keep a club alive, we needed goals and support. They agreed.

Meanwhile, six more replies came in, some by email. One letter arrived postmarked Abilene, 150 miles away, from a grower who was gravely ill. He wanted to help us get started, although he probably wouldn't be able to come to meetings. Eric remained a member until his death last fall.

By August 1999, we had to scramble for chairs to seat fifteen members. We volunteered to be officers, set dues, and named ourselves West Texas African Violet Society. Our meeting place benefactor had lost her business, so we moved to Barnes and Noble Booksellers. During the Christmas holidays, their representative called to say they would no longer allow us meeting space so I made still another phone call. Community and Senior Services welcomed us to their large, bright administrative offices where we meet to this day.

During September, Bill Foster e-mailed me. At the monthly meeting of First Nighter African Violet Society of Dallas, Mrs. Mildred Greene offered to sponsor our West Texas African Violet Society with a membership in AVSA. This beautiful gesture was followed by a welcoming membership in the Lone Star African Violet Council, voted on during their Annual Meeting. This acceptance and support have greatly nourished our new club.

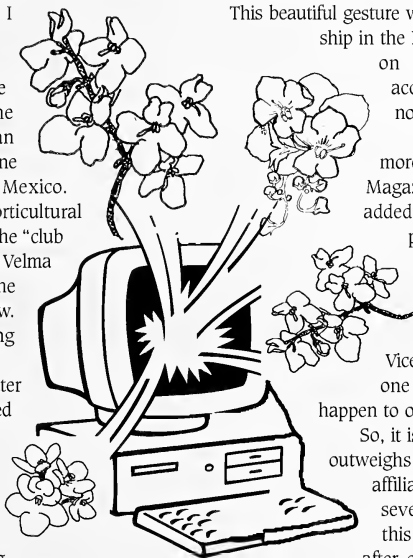
Bev Promersberger helped some more. She included us in her African Violet Magazine feature, Affiliate Update, and added us to the AVSA web site. This publicity yielded interested people and at least one very active new member. In addition, Bev gave us some pointers on how to deal with a club-killing personality. As our Vice-President says, "I feel too good after one of our meetings to let anything bad happen to our club."

So, it is not all a bed of violets. But the good outweighs the challenging any day! We are affiliates of AVSA and LSAVC, we have held several sales, and by the time you read this we hope to still be alive and kicking after our very first African Violet Standard

Show, "Violets Come to Bush Country!" We did not come to this point alone. Wonderful Violet People across Texas and the United States, to whom we owe many thanks, supported and strengthened us along the way.

After our rain-soaked drive home from the LSAVC 2000 Convention and Show in Dallas, our Publicity Chairman asked, "What was your favorite part of the Show?" So many special memories of that show flooded in. As I sorted through all the kindnesses, the same answer came again, and again, "My favorite time? When we were all seated together around the table at the Awards Banquet." I belong to an African Violet Club!

*From the Newsletter of the Lone Star AV Council*



# Points To Keep in Mind when selecting A Miniature African Violet

by Sue Gardner

Do you want easy growing miniature African violets with lots of flowers and few problems? Here are a several points to keep in mind when selecting leaves for propagation or when buying plants. Also keep them in mind if you are reading a description in a catalogue or list.

## Foliage

The foliage should be flat and symmetrical. The leaves should overlap with no petioles or potting mix showing. If you are reading a description, it should mention that the foliage is symmetrical.

## Bloom

The flowers should have strong peduncles holding the flowers up above the foliage. Beware of flowers described as large or double as they may flop! There should be at least six blooms per peduncle.

## Appearance

Keep in mind the visual appeal of the plant. Contrasting flowers and foliage (such as pale flowers and dark foliage) make an attractive plant. Also remember that if you like the plant, you will care for it.

## Show Winners

Look for plants that have won show awards, as these are usually easy to grow as well as possessing great foliage and flowers.

Some SEMI—MINIS that have won awards in the USA are 'Irish Flirt', 'Ness' Crinkle Blue', 'Little Pro' and 'Precious Pink'.

Some MINIS that have won awards are 'Optimara Rose Quartz', 'Little Moonstone' and 'Mickey Mouse'.

In Australia, some that have won first prizes in shows are 'Little Aztec', 'Ness' Crinkle Blue', 'Teen Sweetheart', 'Shy Blue', 'Optimara Little Diamond', 'Rob's Zero Gravity' and 'Rob's Smarty Pants'.

## Mini and Semi—Mini Trailers

When selecting trailers, look for plants that have won awards. Some are 'Santa Fe Trail', 'Teeny Bopper' and 'Happy Trails'. Remember, single flowers may drop and a lot of trailers have this problem.

If you are buying a plant, buy only a healthy, sturdy plant - not a wimp!

From the *Newsletter* of the Early Morn AV Group, Australia

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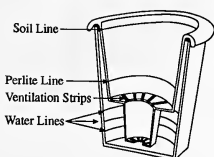
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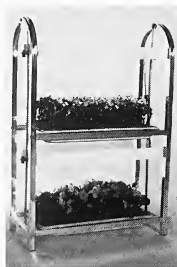
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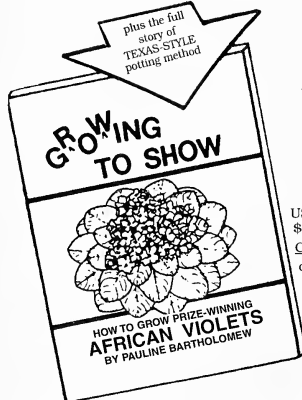
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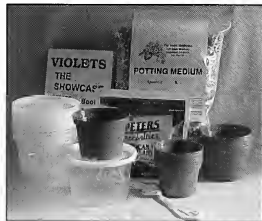


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3-12-6	Bloom	4.95	7.95	12.00
9-3-6	Foliage Pro	4.95		11.00
0-0-3	Pro-Tekt	4.95		10.00
Concentrate	K-L-N	10.00		
Neem Oil		11.50		
Dolomite Limestone				2 lbs./\$1.75
Charcoal		20 oz.	40 oz.	\$0.00
No. 4 Coarse or	No. 6 Medium	1.85		3.50
Vermiculite	No. 2 Coarse	4 qts.	8 qts.	16 qts.
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# African Violet

The magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets

September • October 2002

Volume 55

Number 5



# AVSA Information

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**AVM EDITOR:** Ruth Rumsey, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702; 409-839-4725; 1-800-770-2872; FAX 409-839-4329. E-mail rumsey@earthlink.net

**ARTICLES BY MEMBERS, COLUMNISTS AND MEMORIALS:** Send to Editor.

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# African Violet

*The Magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.*

September • October

Volume 55

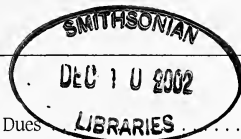
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2002 Introduction

Paul Sorano

Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses

Standard Fantasy



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

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### OFFICERS:

**Jack Wilson**, President  
10007 Bent Tree Ln., Manassas, VA 20111  
email: cagmo@aol.com

**Janet Riemer**, 1st VP  
256 Pennington-Harbourton Rd.  
Pennington, NJ 08554-4007  
email: JTRiemer@aol.com

**Linda Owens**, 2nd VP  
1762 Stemwood Dr., Columbus, OH 43228  
email: Ldowens215@aol.com

**Joyce Stork**, 3rd VP  
2501 E. 23rd Ave. S, Fremont, NE 68025  
email: kents@tvsonline.net

**Sue Ramser**, Secretary  
2413 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308  
email: ramserwf@wf.net

**Gary Gordon**, Treasurer  
120 Brinkwood Rd., Brookville, MD 20833  
email: ggordon120@aol.com

**Bill Foster**, Immediate Past President  
5610 Gray Drive, Mesquite, TX 75150  
email: bpfoster@airmail.net

### STAFF:

**Ruth Rumsey**, Editor  
2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702  
email: rumsey@earthlink.net

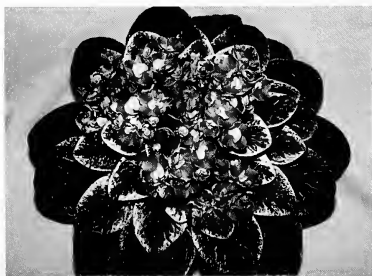
**Judith Carter**, Advertising Manager  
1825 W. Lincoln St., Broken Arrow, OK 74012  
email: AVMads@msn.com

**Barbara Pershing**, Publications  
8134 Buck Ridge, Cedar Falls, IA 50613  
email: barbara.pershing@uni.edu

**Floyd Lawson**, Best Varieties, Honor Roll  
1100 W. Huntington Dr., #21, Arcadia, CA 91007  
email: floydll@earthlink.net

**Anna Jean Landgren**, Tally Time  
20 Calvin Circle, Evanston, IL 60301  
email: geoajl@aol.com

Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.





# President's Message



Dear AVSA Members,

Fall is always such a fun time since we resume attending our affiliate meetings each month. We also tend to spend much more time with our violets this time of year. The fall shows are not far off. Are you making plans to attend any of the neighboring community shows? How about attending the regional shows and conventions? Those I've attended over the years have been fun. Plus, I've made many new violet friends.

Your AVSA Executive Committee will be meeting in Rochester, NY this year. We will join the Mid-Atlantic AVS and New York State AVS at their convention and show. It will be held in the Holiday Inn Rochester Airport on October 24-26. Join us. We'd love to meet you. For full information, check out the MAAVS web site at: [WWW.MAAVS.ORG](http://WWW.MAAVS.ORG). There are many regional shows and conventions throughout the country. Check them out and have a great time.

Fall is also the time we order plants and supplies. Our *African Violet Magazine* has many advertisements for plants and supplies. Many advertisers have web sites where you can order on-line. Our hybridizers continue to develop new, unique cultivars. Each year I have a huge "gotta have" list. We really appreciate the continuing support our commercial members provide to AVSA. Help them support us by supporting them.

Two of our biggest AVSA supporters, Barbara Cook and Mary Boland, are recovering rapidly from major surgeries. We missed them and are anxious to see them participating at violet functions again. Welcome back ladies.

You will notice we had to increase membership fees effective October 1. Everything continues to cost more, and that includes the printing and shipping of the *African Violet Magazine*. We don't like to raise membership fees, but we also want to be able to provide you with the great magazine you expect. We can't do that without keeping up with publishing and shipping costs.

Please help us control operating costs by ensuring that any culture brochures you distribute at your shows have the correct fees shown. Culture folders with incorrect information result in additional costs to AVSA and new members upset with us when we have to ask for the additional fees. The AVSA office will provide labels to affix on the folders. Let them know how many you require, and they will mail them to you promptly.

Anne Nicholas and her Library Committee have really been busy. Tom Glembocki has produced a CD of the DC Convention. It is terrific and available at minimal cost. Check out Anne's column on this and other new products available to members and affiliates.

Watch for the latest version of AVSA's *First Class Master Variety List*. Joe Bruns has spent many hours fine-tuning this program. The *First Class* program has greatly improved the entries and judging process at our affiliate and national shows. Joe, thanks for all your hard work for AVSA. It is very much appreciated.

Jim Owens continues to expand the capabilities of our AVSA web site: [www.AVSA.org](http://www.AVSA.org). He is adding more pictures weekly to the thousands already there. We have increased our web site's capacity, which resulted in a significant increase in our yearly web costs. Contributions to the Booster Fund for the web site would be appreciated.

One valued recipient of Booster Fund contributions is the computer system in the AVSA office. We are always updating the software and anti-virus protection. Our latest update will be approximately \$1400. These costs are very significant but necessary to provide our members the service they expect.

Dr. Charles Cole has revised his book on insects and pests and how to control them. Look for information on its availability on our AVSA website. It should be available during the late fall. Thank you Dr. Cole. AVSA really appreciates your continuing work for our society.

It is not too early to be planning for next April's AVSA convention in Baton Rouge, LA. It is less than eight months away. Start looking at your plants and determining which ones might be show plants. Start looking at the airfares and train schedules. There are some great fares available now. Make your reservations and lock them while they are low. For many of us, a pleasant drive is a possibility. We are expecting this to be one of the bigger shows and conventions we have had in years. Don't be left out and forced to read about what a great time you missed. Without you, we won't have a great convention.

Have a great fall. I'll be looking for your name in the "And the winners are..." column.

Sincerely,

John E. (Jack) Wilson  
AVSA President



# Editor's Notes



Ruth Rumsey • 2375 North Street • Beaumont, Texas 77702  
(409) 839-4725 • email [rrumsey@earthlink.net](mailto:rrumsey@earthlink.net)

My husband and I recently spent a weekend on Galveston Island and a full day at Moody Gardens. I had heard that there were African violets growing in the rainforest pyramid, and was surprised to find so many in the African habitat. Most of the plants we saw were hybridized varieties, but there was one, growing in a rock crevice, that looked very much like a species plant. I asked a few of our AVSA experts, and the consensus is that it could be *Saintpaulia ionantha*.



*Saintpaulia* species plant

I don't know if the plants would actually grow in a twist of trailing vines in the rainforest, but this cultivar and the colorful live parrots certainly caught my attention.



Due to the rising costs of producing this magazine, including increased postage rates, our Board of Directors voted to raise the cost of AVSA membership, effective October 1, 2002.

I hope you feel as I do, that the cost of membership is still a great bargain. As far as I know, ours is the only society producing a full-sized magazine, and bi-monthly at that, as opposed to a quarterly publication. As the African Violet Magazine is *your* society publication, your input is very important. Please continue to send me your suggestions and ideas for ways to make the AVM even better.

I encourage all of you to start thinking about the convention in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, next April. Baton Rouge is only a couple of hours from Beaumont, and all of us in the AVSA office have visited there before. It's a fun city, and in the heart of plantation country.

There are tributes in this issue to **Frank Tinari, Sr.**, past AVSA President, and **Bill Lyons**, long time Booster Fund Chairman. Both of these men had a positive impact on our society and other violet growers.

**Club Publicity Chairmen:** Please adhere to the schedule found on the inside front cover of this magazine when sending in your Coming Event notices. Even for this issue, I received a few notices two and even three weeks past the deadline.

Once again, I cannot guarantee that your notice will appear in the Coming Events listing if it does not reach me by the deadline dates. Please utilize the speedier forms of communication - FAX: 409.839.4329, and email: [rrumsey@earthlink.net](mailto:rrumsey@earthlink.net).

In **Sue Hoffman's** article, "Tips for Creating Blue Ribbon Underwater Flower Arrangements", on page 38 in the July Issue, please note that the "Interpretation of Schedule" should be 15 points instead of 5.

## \$10,000 for 10,000

Did you see the notice in the last issue of the *AVM* on page 51? Wouldn't you like the privilege of naming the 10,000th registration? Have you given it some thought? If you are interested, contact the AVSA Office by mail, phone, or email. See AVSA Information on inside front cover of any *AVM*. What do you bid?

Clubs not affiliated with AVSA will no longer have their show and sale notices printed in the African Violet Magazine or displayed on the AVSA web site. These Coming Events listings are for the publicity of our affiliated clubs ONLY.

If you belong to an African violet club that is currently not affiliated with AVSA, urge them to join. Publicity to all of our membership is just one of the many benefits available to our AVSA Affiliated Clubs.

All Library orders  
MUST be made in WRITING.

Please send either by  
FAX - 409.839.4329,

Email - [avsa@earthlink.net](mailto:avsa@earthlink.net)

or by US Mail to:

AVSA Library  
2375 North Street  
Beaumont TX 77702

**1 (800) 770-AVSA (2872)**  
**[www.AVSA.org](http://www.AVSA.org)**

## First Class Gets New Look

First Class, the popular computer program equivalent of the African Violet Master List of Species and Cultivars (AVML), is now available in a new version. Among the many changes are two long-awaited improvements: photos and the ability to search descriptions. The database contains over 2,000 photos, with more to be added with each update. You will have the option to add your own photos. The search function has been expanded to include the ability to search for words in the blossom description and/or foliage description. Check out <http://firstclass2.com>.

The new First Class will require Windows 95 or higher, and up to 40 MB of hard drive space. The price is \$25.00, including shipping, and it includes a 6-month subscription to on-line updates. After that, the update subscription is \$10.00 per year. The update process will be much easier than with version 1, and it will be done from within the program. Just click a menu item, and everything is automatic. If you don't have Internet access,

you can purchase an update on CD annually for \$10.00.

Registered owners of First Class version 1 will get a discount. If you purchased version 1 within three months of purchasing version 2, the cost will be only \$12.50; within six months, the cost will be \$15.00; for all others, the cost will be \$20.00. The program is available through the AVSA office.

The photos contained in the First Class database were taken by a number of different photographers, with a variety of cameras, under a variety of lighting conditions, and the plants were grown under a variety of conditions as well. Keeping that in mind, be aware that some of the photos might not accurately represent the typical specimen of that cultivar. In fact, some of them might even be mislabeled. **For those reasons, the photos in First Class should not be used as the determining factor when classifying African violets at a show.** The printed description and the judgement of the classification committee will take precedence.



**Al & Cathy Cornibe**  
197 Archer Drive  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
*e-mail: cathycornibe@aol.com*

## NEGLECTED AFRICAN VIOLETS?

Sometimes you get so busy that it is hard to find enough time for your African violets.

In the last few months, we've put in a new driveway, walkway, retaining wall, porch, and front door. We've been staining and painting in between houseguests. And our son, James, got married.

After the wedding, our home had to be fumigated for termites, which meant moving us and over 200 African violets (not including leaves) out of the house. We are now landscaping our yard.

We could go on and on, but you get the picture. Although we've really enjoyed the past few months and have accomplished a lot, our African violets have been neglected.

Sooner or later, everyone neglects his or her plants. When it happens to you, what should you do?

### **DON'T PANIC**

After your plants have been neglected, don't worry. Contrary to popular belief, African violets are pretty hardy and easy to grow. A little "tender loving care" is all that is needed to get them back into shape.

### **DID YOUR AFRICAN VIOLETS GO WITHOUT WATER?**

If your plants went without water for only a day or two, and the leaves are not drooping (limp and falling down over the pot), simply water your African violets as usual.

If the leaves are drooping, and the soil is extremely dry, then your plants need a little more attention to revive them. Leaf supports, if you have them, should be used to lift up the leaves. Then, each plant should be given a "small amount" of water. Later, after a few hours, each plant should be given more water until the soil becomes moist.

Whenever you see leaves drooping, it signals that the plant has undergone some type of stress. A greenhouse environment to increase the humidity will help those plants to recover faster. Small plants can be placed in a plastic shoe-box, or plastic bags can be put over the pots. A humidifier or vaporizer can also be used to increase the humidity.

We never give fertilizer to plants that have been under stress (such as going without water, over-watered, returning home from a show, or new plants that are trying to adjust to our environment). We withhold fertilizer for at least a week or two to let them rest and recover.

### **DID YOU OVER-WATER YOUR PLANTS?**

Sometimes when a grower is busy, and their plants haven't been watered in a long time, they will over-compensate by "drowning" their African violets.

If your plants were over-watered, place the pots on top of several layers of newspaper. The paper will pull out the excess water from the soil.

### **DID THEY GO WITHOUT ARTIFICIAL LIGHT?**

If your African violets are grown under artificial lights, when you get busy, it's easy to forget to turn the lights on or off.

To avoid this form of neglect, simply plug the lights into a timer. Timers are very beneficial; your plants will receive the same amount of light every day, and you can use them to your advantage. During the winter, as an example, set the lights to come on at night and off during the day. During the night, when the temperatures are usually the lowest, the lights will be giving off heat to keep your plants a little warmer.

## **WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOUR PLANTS WERE REPOTTED?**

Usually, the more African violets you grow, the easier it is to forget when they were last repotted. To avoid this, as you repot each plant, put a label or tape on the pot containing the name of the plant and the date it was repotted.

We like to use permanent ink on our labels so the ink won't come off or smear when we water our plants.

Some books recommend repotting African violets once a year. However, our violets grow faster and look healthier when we repot them twice a year.

## **FIGURE OUT WHAT'S CAUSING THE NEGLECT**

Things are bound to come up that just can't be helped. But, if you are neglecting your African violets over and over again, you need to figure out what is causing the problem. Then try to find a solution.

## **MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH YOUR PLANTS**

If needed, "schedule" an appointment with your violets. Put it on your calendar. A few years ago, Cathy decided that 11AM – Noon would be "her time with her violets" so she stopped answering the phone and doorbell during that hour. Her violets never looked better!

## **FINDING WAYS TO SAVE TIME**

Consider new ways of growing your African violets that will save time so your plants won't get neglected as often. Do some experimenting, but only on one or two plants until you see the results.

Are you spending too much time watering your plants?

You might want to switch to another watering method. Experiment with self-watering containers, wicking, community watering, or matting.

We don't community water (plants share the same water) unless we know that all of the plants are healthy. Otherwise, a problem will spread from one plant to another.

Do you have too many plants to water? You might want to consider a watering system that you can build or buy. Al put together a watering system that saved a tremendous amount of time and work for Cathy.

If you want Al to explain how he built it, just email or write us, and we will do a column on it in the future.

Does your soil dry out too quickly, requiring you to water frequently? You might want to consider experimenting with other soils. A heavier soil will stay moist longer.

Cathy bought a headset for one of our portable phones. This freed her hands so she didn't have to stop working on her plants just to answer the phone.

## **ARE YOU TRYING TO GROW "TOO MANY" PLANTS?**

Many growers end up neglecting their plants, over and over again, simply because they have more plants than they can possibly take care of. They often feel "overwhelmed".

If this sounds like you, you might have to choose between "quantity" and "quality".

If you need to cut back, African violets make wonderful gifts. Also, there are many places (such as clubs, hospitals, nursing homes, schools, etc.) that would be happy to have them.

We want you to enjoy your hobby, and that is hard to do if you try to grow more plants than you can handle.



# **2002 Best AVM Article Awards**

Each year the AVSA Board of Directors and the Publications Committee select the five best articles published in the African Violet Magazine in the past year. The winners are awarded Certificates of Appreciation for their contributions to the African Violet Magazine. The winners are also

presented with a one-year subscription to the AVM to be given to a non-AVSA member. The awards are presented at the annual AVSA Convention.

The following awards were presented at the 2002 AVSA Convention in Washington D.C.:

Linda Golubski - Missouri  
Janice Bruns - Illinois  
Neil Lipson - Pennsylvania  
Margaret Taylor - Australia  
Dr. Jeff Smith - Indiana

**How Does Thy Garden Grow?**  
**Growing Miniatures for Show**  
**Soil pH and Fertilizers**  
**Adventures in Hybridizing**  
**The Evolution of African Violets**

Mar-Apr '01  
Sept-Oct. '01  
May-June '01  
Jan-Feb. '02  
Nov-Dec '01

*Congratulations to each of the winners!*

Barbara Pershing, *Publications Committee Chairman*

# In Memory of Frank A. Tinari



Frank Tinari, Sr. was a grower of flowers. He was a keeper of honeybees. He regarded this world with a sense of wonder which most lose in childhood.

He was proud of his origins, humble though they were. He was fond of seeking the Italian ancestry of nearly everyone he met, claiming kinship with all manner of citizens of the world. If sometimes he took liberties with geography or genealogy, well, it didn't matter because most were glad to discover that they were related in some way to this gentle, loving man.

While he loved plant life of all sorts, he became captivated with a species known as *Saintpaulia Ionantha*, commonly known as the African violet. This started during the courtship of his future wife, Anne. Like their courtship, it blossomed into the business of growing and hybridizing these wonders of nature for nearly sixty years. He and Anne have achieved considerable notoriety at this. One horticulture magazine has described them as "the rock stars of the African violet world".

Frank left this world better off by over five hundred new varieties of plants which, while registered as unique, he never sought to patent for personal gain. He believed that plant varieties, even though brought about by work of his hands, belonged to nature. Just as important as that accomplishment are the innumerable plants, cuttings, or seedlings that he would give away at the slightest provocation. One of his greatest joys would be to gladden the heart of a child with a plant cutting and some rooting instructions.

Frank loved his country. He was an immigrant from Italy and a naturalized citizen of America. He never took that citizenship for granted. In every sense, he realized the hope and promise of this great nation. He truly lived the American dream.

He loved nature, and was a conservationist and an ecologist long before that was fashionable. For him, every day was "Earth Day". One of his dear friends and colleagues, himself a lover of nature, said, "There's not a finer man in the room than Frank Tinari, and I believe that is because he puts his hands in the soil every day."

He loved learning and discovery. Despite the lack of a formal education, everyone recognized that he was uncommonly bright and that he possessed a work ethic second to none.

Frank owned and operated Tinari Greenhouses for more than fifty years. He and his wife, Anne, were devoted, dedicated members of the African Violet Society of America since it's beginning. Frank served a term as President of AVSA, 1969 - 1970, and was the chairman of the research committee for thirty years. Recognized for his dedication to AVSA and African violet research, Frank received the AVSA Bronze Medal in 1965, an AVSA Honorary Life Membership in 1971, the Distinguished Service Award in 1981, and membership to the AVSA Hall of Fame in 1987.

(Ed. Note: Thank you to the Tinari family for allowing me to excerpt the moving tribute written by Frank's son, Anthony.)



Anne & Frank Tinari Pittsburgh Convention 1955

**A Former President Looks Back  
Frank A. Tinari  
AVSA President 1969 - 1970  
Greeting to the Membership from the  
AVSA 50th Anniversary Book**

It is indeed a privilege to extend a warm welcome to all members of the AVSA. The spirit of this society has created and embraced a common interest in an almost unknown plant, the African violet, revered today as America's favorite houseplant.

I feel fortunate to have served this great organization when called upon, to the best of my ability. I have watched the society grow from a mere handful of interested, enthusiastic individuals to the prominence it enjoys today.

Plant life is a fascinating and intriguing study man can achieve through keen observance, detail analysis, and consideration, to which I have devoted fifty years of my life. Having known the joy of hybridizing these many years and to watch an unusual seedling become a favorite cultivar gives great meaning to life.

The beauty of our conventions over the years and the lasting friendships I have enjoyed are only a small portion of the many advantages offered to our vast membership.

May this great society continue to carry on with vigor and effectiveness to generate continued propagation and hybridization of the African violet to its greatest genetic potential.

# Memorial Donations - Frank A. Tinari, Sr.

Dear AVSA Members, revered friends, and relatives:

*I wish to express my heartfelt thanks for your thoughtful notes, cards, and generous donations to benefit our beloved society in Frank's memory.*

*We shall gravely miss him and dedicate the following to his memory.*

*He was a grower of flowers and a keeper of honeybees.  
He regarded the world with goals to achieve.  
With help from his maker and love from his kin,  
His life emulated the joy mankind can win.*

Anne Tinari

## Boyce Edens Research Fund Memorial Donations

### FRANK TINARI, SR.

Compiled by BERF Chairwoman, Marlene Buck

Grand-children and Great-grandchildren . . . . .	\$250.00
<i>In memory of Granddad. "We loved you Granddad"</i>	
Phyllis E. Rusnock, Mercerville, NJ. . . . .	25.00
<i>In memory of Frank A. Tinari, Sr.</i>	
Duane and Eleanor Clarke, Meadowbrook, PA. . . . .	50.00
<i>In memory of Frank A. Tinari, Sr.</i>	
Mary and Louis Traini, Jeffersonville, PA. . . . .	100.00
<i>In memory of Frank A. Tinari, Sr.</i>	
John and Kathleen Lima, Southampton, PA. . . . .	20.00
<i>In memory of Frank A. Tinari, Sr.</i>	
Alice E. Ridgway, Huntingdon Valley, PA. . . . .	25.00
<i>In memory of Frank A. Tinari, Sr.</i>	
John and Anne Marie Cataldo, Warminster, PA. . . . .	10.00
<i>In memory of Frank A. Tinari, Sr.</i>	
Helen D. Atkiss & Family, Marjorie Desmond, Oreland, PA. . . . .	25.00
<i>In memory of Frank A. Tinari, Sr.</i>	
John S. Hahn, McLean, VA. . . . .	200.00
<i>In memory of Frank A. Tinari, Sr.</i>	
The Leggieri Family, Ocean City, NJ. . . . .	100.00
<i>In memory of Frank A. Tinari, Sr.</i>	
Robert G. Rosen, Philadelphia, PA. . . . .	20.00
<i>In memory of Mr. Frank Tinari, a fine man and gentleman.</i>	
June W. O'Neill, Dania, FL. . . . .	10.00
<i>In memory of Frank A. Tinari, Sr.</i>	
Arthur and Mary Boland, Alexandria, VA. . . . .	50.00
<i>In memory of Frank A. Tinari, Sr.</i>	
Bryan and Regina Cavaliere, Bernardsville, NJ. . . . .	50.00
<i>In memory of Frank A. Tinari, Sr.</i>	
Dr. and Mrs. Frederic A. Thompson, Jr., Meadowbrook, PA. . . . .	75.00
<i>In memory of Frank A. Tinari, Sr.</i>	
Dolores M. Harrington, Minneapolis, MN. . . . .	10.00
<i>In memory of Frank Tinari who hybridized beautiful violets.</i>	
Clara F. Dungan, Southampton, PA. . . . .	25.00
<i>In memory of Frank A. Tinari, Sr.</i>	
Antonio and Florence Giovannangelo, Southampton, PA. . . . .	50.00
<i>In memory of Frank A. Tinari, Sr.</i>	
The Yardumian Family, Bryn Athyn, PA. . . . .	50.00
<i>In loving memory of Frank Tinari, our neighbor for 30 years.</i>	

Tinari cousins: Paulette, Paul, Rick, Tina, and Ken Gold, Southampton, PA. . . . .	\$20.00
<i>In memory of Uncle Frank Tinari</i>	
Carlos Garber, Cinnaminson, NJ. . . . .	10.00
<i>In memory of Frank A. Tinari, Sr.</i>	
Janet T. Riemer, Pennington, NJ. . . . .	25.00
<i>In memory of Frank A. Tinari, Sr. It seems like an era has passed.</i>	
Marlene Buck, Sun City, AZ. . . . .	25.00
<i>In memory of Frank Tinari, a dear friend, whose years of dedicated violet research gave us so many beautiful violets for us all to enjoy.</i>	
Rich and Elizabeth Kleiner, Huntingdon Valley, PA. . . . .	25.00
<i>In memory of Frank A. Tinari, Sr.</i>	
Ruth and Burgess Goeke, Brenham, TX. . . . .	10.00
<i>In memory of Frank A. Tinari, Sr.</i>	
Lisa Giovannangelo, Ivyland, PA. . . . .	50.00
<i>In memory of Frank A. Tinari, Sr.</i>	
Dr. James and Kathy Bond, Hatboro, PA. . . . .	100.00
<i>In memory of Frank Tinari, long time revered friend.</i>	
Paulette and David Heilburn, Jr., Huntingdon Valley, PA. . . . .	50.00
<i>In memory of our friend Frank A. Tinari, Sr.</i>	
TARA African Violet Club, Stockbridge, GA. . . . .	15.00
<i>In memory of Frank A. Tinari, Sr.</i>	
Barbara and Alvin White, Hatboro, PA. . . . .	25.00
<i>In memory of our friend Frank A. Tinari, Sr.</i>	
NASA African Violet Society, Seabrook, TX. . . . .	10.00
<i>In memory of Frank A. Tinari, Sr.</i>	
Mr. Franklin Jarrett, Hatboro, PA. . . . .	100.00
<i>In memory of Frank A. Tinari, Sr.</i>	
Rick and Linda Spinogetti, Havertown, PA. . . . .	100.00
Bruno and Anne Spinogetti	
Anthony and Sonia De Curtis	
<i>In memory of Frank A. Tinari, Sr.</i>	
Ernest and Gertrude Weber, Huntingdon Valley, PA. . . . .	25.00
<i>In memory of our friend Frank A. Tinari, Sr.</i>	
American Legion Auxillary, Pennypack Post Unit No. 800, Huntingdon Valley, PA. . . . .	25.00
<i>In memory of Frank A. Tinari, Sr.</i>	
Dr. John and Anna Reganis, Easton, PA. . . . .	50.00
<i>In memory of Frank A. Tinari, Sr.</i>	
Dr. Andrew Doering, Huntingdon Valley, PA. . . . .	50.00
<i>In memory of Frank A. Tinari, Sr.</i>	
Union County Chapter AVSA, NJ. . . . .	25.00
<i>In memory of Frank A. Tinari, Sr. Frank was such a fine host when our club visited the greenhouses and a good friend to us all.</i>	
Corpus Christi African Violet Society, Corpus Christi, TX. . . . .	25.00
<i>In memory of Frank A. Tinari, Sr.</i>	
Bristol-Meyers Squibb Company, Princeton, NJ. . . . .	50.00
<i>In memory of Frank A. Tinari, Sr.</i>	
MAFCO Worldwide Corporation, Camden, NJ. . . . .	50.00
<i>In memory of Frank A. Tinari, Sr.</i>	
Tristate African Violet Council, NJ. . . . .	25.00
<i>In memory of Frank A. Tinari, Sr.</i>	
Ruth Rumsey, Beaumont, TX. . . . .	25.00
<i>In fond memory of my friend, Frank Tinari, Sr.</i>	
Nancy and John Hayes and children. . . . .	50.00
<i>In memory of our dear friend Frank Tinari. An era in AVSA has indeed passed.</i>	
The Windsor AVS. . . . .	50.00
<i>In memory of Frank A. Tinari, Sr.</i>	
John and Suzanne Fillman. . . . .	100.00
<i>In memory of Frank A. Tinari, Sr. holder of the American dream, loving father, and leader in our community.</i>	

# Question Box



**Ralph Robinson**  
P.O. Box 9  
Naples, NY 14512  
email: [robsviolet@aol.com](mailto:robsviolet@aol.com)



**Dorothy Kosowsky**  
712 Cunningham Dr.  
Whittier, CA 90601  
email: [dot3joe@earthlink.net](mailto:dot3joe@earthlink.net)

We'll go to just about any violet show we can get to. This year's national convention show in Washington was the 19th that I've been to, and we'll be there in Baton Rouge next spring. It's something every grower should experience. If you can't wait for (or can't attend) next year's show, I've got an alternative - the combined Convention Show of the New York State and Mid-Atlantic African violet societies. It will be held October 24-26 in Rochester, New York. With both societies holding the show jointly, it should be bigger and better than ever. It's easy to get to (the hotel is across from the Rochester airport) and very affordable. What's more, it's less than an hour's drive from us - so plan a visit to the 'Violet Barn' while at the convention! If you're interested, contact us.

As is always the case, we are far too busy to reply to mail (or e-mail), though we do read all of it. Should you want a personal reply, we are more than willing to answer phone calls made during our normal business hours (12-5 pm EST), since we can work and talk at the same time. For those with access to the internet, we can be reached at [robsviolet@aol.com](mailto:robsviolet@aol.com) or via our web-site at [www.robsviolet.com](http://www.robsviolet.com). The web-site also contains a wealth of cultural information.

**QUESTION:** *How often should I water my miniature violets?*

**ANSWER:** The "rule of thumb" for watering miniature violets is the same as for standard varieties, or most any gesneriad, for that matter - water when the surface of the soil is "dry to the touch". Place your finger on the soil surface. If it feels dry, then it's time to water. This can be done either from the top or bottom. Of course, if a constant-watering method, like wicking or mats, is used, then this will be done less often, but the rule still applies.

If the question is whether miniature violets need to be watered more or less often than standard-size varieties, then the answer is "maybe". Our experience is that there isn't much of a difference, once plants are mature and they are potted in the correct size pot for their root system. It is true that miniatures use a smaller pot, and this would seem to suggest that they would dry more quickly. However, they also have a smaller root system to absorb the water, and smaller leaf surface area from which moisture is lost. Larger plants, in larger pots, will process more water than will smaller plants. The end result is that both large and small violets, in the proper size pots, should need watering at about the same intervals. The "maybe" comes into play when plants are over/under potted relative to their size and maturity. Those that are overpotted or are immature will dry out more slowly, for instance.

**QUESTION:** *I find that most of my miniatures don't really start to do well until temperatures reach 75F degrees or more, but a few bloom well between 68F and 72F degrees. Where I live, given ever-increasing utility rates, keeping a room at 75F plus can get expensive. Can you recommend some varieties that do well at a room temperature of about 68F degrees?*

**ANSWER:** I found this question interesting, if only because we've found that most African violets, miniatures included, do best at cooler temperatures. If anything, we've have problems keeping summertime temperatures low enough! Our violets always seem much happier in the winter, when nighttime temperatures in our growing area fall to about 60F and daytime temperatures often won't exceed 70F degrees.

It is true that violets will grow and bloom more slowly at



cooler temperatures. Blooms will have better color, and last much longer, though, and varieties with variegated foliage will look spectacular. At temperatures much below 60-65°F degrees, some varieties might begin to have problems. Foliage will become especially hairy and brittle and growth in the center will become tight, much like what would happen with a mite infestation. At temperatures this low, many varieties will just cease growing, almost seeming to go dormant. This has been our experience with violets that we've grown on the windowsill of our glasshouse during the winter.

As for recommending varieties that do well at certain temperatures, this is difficult to do. One suggestion is to grow varieties produced by hybridizers who have conditions similar to your own. Hybridizers select out the best plants from among their many seedlings - the plants that perform best for them under their conditions! I'll make an illustration using plants from two well-know hybridizers - Kent Stork and Lyon's Greenhouses (Sorano). We've found that many (not all) of Kent's varieties do better under brighter light and cooler temperatures, while those from Lyon's prefer relatively lower light and higher temperatures. Keep in mind that these are generalizations and are relative comparisons - we have success growing most varieties from either of them! Speaking for our own varieties, our later hybrids (after 1995) probably are a bit more heat-tolerant than those produced earlier. Why? Our growing conditions have changed! Most of our plants are grown under conditions that are warmer than they were in the past. When selecting seedlings to name and propagate, we select those that do best under our conditions at the time! Where to start? Ask other growers what their experience has been with different varieties. They may be able to make some suggestions, particularly if their growing conditions are similar to yours.

**QUESTION:** *One of my trailers is not putting out any new crowns. What should I do?*

**ANSWER:** There can be a number of explanations for a trailing variety not producing any new crowns. First, it may simply be the nature of that variety. Some more freely produce crowns and runners than others. Our own hybrids (Rob's), as well as those of Lyon's and Ethel Champion, to name a few, generally produce runners quite readily and have a good spreading, trailing, habit.

To encourage growth of new crowns, you may want to repot your trailer, if this hasn't been done in six months or more. As with any plant, repotting in fresh soil seems to reinvigorate the root system and spur new growth. With trailers, it's also important not to be squeamish about regularly pruning the plant. This means thinning-out the foliage, removing old and/or unnecessary leaves. This will allow more light to make its way through the outer foliage and down into the plant near the soil surface. A good variety will often have dozens of tiny, undeveloped crowns ready to grow, if only they had the opportunity to. Think of a forest. Unless the canopy of larger trees is removed or thinned, the smaller trees, growing beneath the large ones, will never

develop!

Branching can also be encouraged by "pinching" (removing the center growth from) the crowns or runners. Think of your trailing violet like a shrub or hedge. When you clip your hedge, you do so to control its size and shape and also to encourage branching and fuller, more dense growth. If it's never trimmed, it grows tall and sparsely. The same logic applies to trailers. An occasional pruning will encourage it to produce more crowns and to force "undergrowth" to develop. Having said all of this, eventually a plant will become too old to freely produce new crowns from the same old, woody growth. At this point, you may want to divide the plant or start a new plant from one of the crowns.

**QUESTION:** *I top-water and find that, after some time, the soil doesn't seem to want to absorb water any more. I'll stand there forever, watching the water sit on the surface of the soil. How can I get the soil to absorb water better?*

**ANSWER:** This is one of the undesirable properties with peat moss, especially if it's been allowed to go completely dry. It sometimes seems impossible to re-wet. Many of the commercial mixes contain a wetting agent, which makes this easier, but it seems to wear off (or wash away) as the soil ages. One answer is to not let the soil mix dry so much that it becomes difficult to re-wet. This can be easier said than done. Another answer is to add (or replenish) a wetting agent to the soil. These can be purchased. However, we've found a cheaper solution, soap, which is often the wetting agent used in the soil to begin with. We add some mild, liquid dish-washing soap to our water - about 2 Tbl. to about 30 gallons of water. You'll use less for less water. As long as it's a mild soap (like Ivory) it doesn't seem to harm the plants.

**QUESTION:** *I like to grow my violets in unusual or decorative pots. Unfortunately, they often don't have any drainage holes. My violets often die, I think, because I've overwatered them. What if I add some drainage material, like gravel, in the bottom of the pot?*

**ANSWER:** You're probably right. Adding drainage material, like gravel or other coarse material that won't readily absorb water will help. Any excess water will collect in the bottom of the pot, away from the soil and root system. You still need to be careful since there still isn't any escape for the extra water. If there's more than just a little excess water, this will collect above the drainage material and in the soil.

A better solution might be to grow your violets in plastic pots with drainage holes, then simply insert them into the decorative pots! If there isn't much difference in size, the violet will appear to be growing in the decorative pot. Water the plant normally, and let the decorative container collect the excess water, much like a saucer. After watering, remove the plant from the decorative container, pour out the excess water, and replace the violet and pot in the container.

**Name of columnist replying is in bold print**

# In Search of New Violets



**Dr. Jeff Smith**  
The Indiana Academy  
Ball State University  
Muncie, IN 47306  
*JSmith4@bsu.edu*

One of the common surprises to people who are growing African violets from seed for the first time is how tiny the seed is. If you were successful with the directions for growing the seed in the last column, you should now have some seedlings. Since the seed is tiny, the newly germinated plants will be very tiny. A common concern at this point is how to handle the small plants. Here are a few tips:

Let the seedlings grow large enough until they are comfortable for you to work with. There is no correct size for moving the seedlings into individual pots. Some people can work with seedlings as small as 1/4 inch in diameter while others prefer to wait until they are much larger. If the seed was sown thinly, the seedlings will have some space to develop into suitable size before they start to crowd each other.

Loosen the germination media around the seedling before lifting it out. This prevents excessive damage to the roots, which may slow growth.

Never handle a seedling by the stem as you may crush the stem and kill the plant. Always hold the plant by the leaves.

Pickle forks or notched flat sticks are excellent tools to handle seedlings. Place the stem in the notch or between the tines and gently lift the plant by the leaves.

Pull each seedling apart from its neighbors before planting. Don't worry if all the germination media comes off the roots. As long as some of the roots are intact, each plant should survive.

Pot-up each seedling individually in a small pot to allow the best growth and shaping of the new plant. Plastic bathroom cups work well as the first pots.

Seedlings don't require special soil mixes. Your regular potting mix will work fine as long as the soil particles are not too large in size.

Water the seedlings with a warm spray or mist to help settle the roots into the soil mix.

Newly potted seedlings should be grown in a tray with a humidity dome or other type of covered container until the

roots are established.

Fertilize the seedlings with a weak balanced fertilizer such as 20-20-20. Variegated seedlings may benefit from a higher nitrogen number until they have enough chlorophyll or green areas to support their early growth.

Keep newly potted seedlings close to the lights to stimulate early growth, but avoid direct sunlight, which will cook the plants.

**Q:** *I have read that fantasy flowers are often unstable, but they are also said to be a dominant trait. How could something that is unstable be dominant?*

**A:** There are two different issues here that might be explained if the genetic basis of what causes a fantasy flower is better understood. Fantasy flowers appear to be caused by a piece of DNA called transposons or transposable genetic elements. This is a piece of DNA that can move from one location to another in a cell's genetic material. Another name for these elements is "jumping genes".

In African violets with fantasy flowers, it appears that transposons have become inserted into the DNA for making the blue flower pigment. The presence of the transposons interrupts the expression of the gene and the cells fail to make the blue pigment. Therefore, the color of the cells is pink or red. In a few instances, however, the transposons have "jumped" out of the gene, restoring its function. Blue pigment is now made and the color shows as blue dots or streaks against the pink background, producing the fantasy pattern.

If transposons are present, the trait is expressed as fantasy dots. The gene is always expressed if present, therefore we call it a dominant trait. However, the genetic stability of the trait is weak. Transposons can "jump" from a cell that will form a flower bud or a new plantlet. None of the cells that develop from this starting cell will inherit the transposons. The color of

*(In Search continued on bottom of page 13)*

# Remembering Bill Lyons

## In Loving Memory of Bill Lyons

9/27/31 - 5/17/02

### "Our Friend Bill"

I met Bill Lyons fifteen years ago  
At the Lower Bucks County African  
Violet Show.

I had never been to a show before;  
I was hooked from the moment I  
walked through the door.

There were tables of violets  
All around the room.  
There were big ones and small ones;  
Every type of bloom.

There were standards and trailers  
And variegated too;  
All pushing violet flowers up;  
What a lovely view!

I joined the club right then and there  
I was excited as can be;  
The time went by and with lots  
of help;  
You made a grower out of me.

You were a friend to each of us  
You took us by the hand;  
And sparked a love inside us all  
For a place called "Violet Land".

The questions that we had for you  
You answered in a minute.  
Like how to make our violet soil;  
And what we should put in it.

We could always count on you  
to help  
With our projects great and small.  
You talked us through them one  
by one;  
You helped us with them all.

You taught us how to judge a show  
How always to take care;  
In seeking out the best in show,  
And always judging fair.

The years have come and years  
have gone  
Old friends have parted too;  
But no matter what the years  
would bring;

We could always depend on you.  
  
And although the time has come  
for us  
When we had to say goodbye:  
I know you're up there somewhere  
In your new home in the sky.

And Bill you'll be so busy  
Teaching angels how to grow;  
Your beloved African violets  
For God's heavenly violet show.

by Carolyn Shave  
Sadly missed by all your friends!

The African violet world was saddened to learn of the death on May 17, 2002 of Bill Lyons of Levittown, Pennsylvania. A charter member of Lower Bucks County AVS, he was a member of Tristate African Violet Council since 1978, and president from 1992 to 1996. He helped to start both the African Violet Club of Burlington County and the African Violet Club of Morris County.



Kay & Bill Lyons

Bill was a life member of AVSA, a master judge, and a teacher. He served as an AVSA director from 1990 to 1993 and as Vice Show Chairman at the 1993 Lancaster convention. He was best known for his leadership as chairman of the AVSA Booster Fund, a position he held from 1995 to 2001.

AVSA had recognized Bill's service with the Hudson Memorial Award for Affiliate Leadership in 1996, a Continuing Service Award in 2000, and an Honorary Life Membership in 2002 (planned before his death and awarded posthumously). He was also a member of the New Jersey Council of Judges, the MidAtlantic African Violet Society, and the New York State African Violet Society.

Bill is survived by his wife of forty-five years, Kazuko "Kay" Lyons, several brothers and sisters, and many nieces and nephews. He will be missed by all his friends in the African violet world.

(In Search continued from page 12)

these cells or plant will now be non-fantasy and blue. Since this event can happen at irregular intervals, growers often label the fantasy trait as "unstable". In some cases, plantlets produced from leaves may be as high as 50% solid colored rather than fantasy. In other instances, half the plant will be fantasy and the other half solid blue. Fortunately, growers have been selecting for higher stability in fantasy plants so modern cultivars tend to be easier to reproduce from leaf cuttings.

**Q:** When a plant mutates or sports, some say that it has reverted back to one of its parents. Is that really what is going on?

**A:** Each individual produced from a sexual event has its own unique set of DNA and genetic traits. Since the DNA came from the parents, the offspring may look strongly like a parent, or it may show a new combination of the traits that were found in both parents. In the cases where people say a plant has reverted back to the parent type, I suspect that the sport is showing some of the same physical traits as the parent. For example, showing the same flower color. The sport will still not be 100% genetically identical to the parent, but the two individuals may both show similar traits.

**Q:** Why does stress seem to produce more chimeras?

**A:** Chimeras are unusual cases where the epidermal cell line and the ground tissue cell line in a plant have become genetically different. Flowers are formed from both epidermal and ground tissues. If the two are different, (for example, one makes blue pigment and the other does not) then the pinwheel stripes of a chimera are formed. Stress can cause genetic instability or mutations in the DNA of cells. If the stress occurs at the correct stage of embryo development, then the epidermal and ground cell lines may become slightly different from each other. If the difference is in the genes for flower color, then a chimera will result.

**Q:** Can self-pollination be used to "set" or improve genetic traits in a plant?

**A:** Self-pollination is when a plant serves as both the male and female parent to an offspring. Because both sets of DNA inherited by the offspring are from the same source, self-pollination tends to reinforce the traits. This would happen for both the "good" traits and the "bad" traits. So if the hybridizer grows out enough seed, they can sometimes find an offspring with these "good" traits and produce an improvement over the original parent plant.

# Thinking Small



**Pat Richards**  
15105 S. Seminole Drive  
Olathe, KS 66062-3004  
email: [Patter257@aol.com](mailto:Patter257@aol.com)

What a wonderful time we enjoyed at the 56th AVSA convention and show! Our sweet, demure show and convention provided a nice contrast to the "Rolling Thunder" converging on Washington, DC for their annual Memorial Day ride. All kidding aside, the "Rolling Thunder" group of motorcyclists provided a spicy dash of excitement to the week. May I also add how good it was to renew acquaintances and to touch base with the membership? Convention seems to reinvigorate the violet grower's soul! Now, let's discuss the wonderful array of miniature and semiminatures which graced the finely staged show room.

## FROM THE STEPS OF THE CAPITOL

The minis and semis receiving top awards began with (at this point I say "perennial" - she's truly making it quite a habit!) Kathy Lahti's 'Rob's Fiddle Faddle', which was awarded 3rd Best African Violet in Show and Best Semiminature. This nice plant was perfectly appointed, holding a mass of medium colored, rose-pink, two-tone blooms atop its hairy, pointed, dark green foliage. I can't recommend this plant to all growers as it has a tendency to put up double crowns, particularly under heavy bloom, but as a show plant it is one of the best (simply remember to always keep a second one growing). Kathy also won the gold rosette for the Best AVSA Collection with 'Optimara Little Shoshone', 'Rob's Fuddy Duddy', and another specimen of 'Rob's Fiddle Faddle', which had a slightly more two-tone quality to the blooms making them almost appear to be "rayed". 'Rob's Fuddy Duddy' is quite well known in show circles, having dark green, glossy, perfectly growing foliage topped by copious quantities of two-tone mauve-purple blooms which show off its bright yellow stamen. 'Optimara Little Shoshone', a light pink with a dark eye, was a worthy addition to the top award winners.

Ron Ennis from New Jersey grew the Best Miniature, 'Pink Dove', a Lyndon Lyon's introduction from a few years ago. This sweet little mini has nicely variegated pink and white foliage which stays small, and is topped by sugar dusted light pink blooms. It was part of his 2nd Best AVSA Small Collection joined by 'Precious Purple' by Pittman, a tiny

growing, nicely variegated plant with double purple blooms, and 'Rob's Romancer', one of Rob's early introductions. It has bright fuchsia-red blooms with a good white edge atop variegated foliage. It's great to see Ron working with these older cultivars that deserve to be grown for show.

Holtkamp Collection Award winners included Kathy Lahti's 3rd Best Collection of 'Optimara Little Crystal', 'Optimara Little Opal', and 'Optimara Little Ruby'. All are tried and true winners in this category, with 'Optimara Little Opal' being the least well known. It is a delightful multicolor with white and blue-purple accents on light green foliage. Kathy also exhibited the Best Robinson Collection of 'Rob's Fiddle Faddle' (mentioned above), 'Rob's Heebie Jeebie', which holds a nice blossom of white with a variable fuchsia edge above pointed medium green foliage, and 'Rob's Little Pueblo' a cultivar which blooms heavily with coral stars held well above dark foliage. 'Rob's Little Pueblo' is not exactly a great show plant, but it does bloom heavily and is a worthy addition to a weak color class. Andrea Worrell from Chicago showed the 2nd Best Robinson Collection of semiminature plants with 'Rob's Boondoggle', a classic plant of dark red frilled blooms adorned with a broad white edge atop dark, wavy foliage. Also included was 'Rob's Outer Orbit', a gorgeous and different cultivar with purple and pink puff fantasy single blooms on top of tan, cream, and green variegation. 'Rob's Purple Slurple', a nice growing plant with almost wasp-like single blooms was also shown.

## AND NOW, THE REST OF THE SHOW...

Such a wonderful display of beauties! Among the semis, there was the usual display of 'Irish Flirt', 'Rob's Boogie Woogie' and 'Ness Crinkle Blue', three classic show performers which should be a part of everyone's collection. Meredith Hall's 'Precious Pink' won the award for best variegated plant in show. No one can argue the greatness of this cultivar. Among the minis, 'Orchard's Bumble Magnet' appears to have a lot of followers, and its sport 'Orchard's Wonder Twin' should take hold as well. There were several in the show, and they all appeared to be slightly larger plants than 'Orchard's

Bumble Magnet', with light green foliage sporting white double blooms with a hint of rose in the eye.

Other notable cultivars included 'Rob's Hallucination', which, simply put, appeared to be pure perfection! Symmetrical tan, green, and gold pointed miniature foliage was topped by an abundance of puff fantasy blooms of blue with pink. It was a striking specimen! 'Rob's Cherry Soda' is a fantastic cultivar, throwing up a quantity of chiffon-like rose pink blooms with darker fantasy on rounded Champion variegation. It's a nice, easy cultivar to grow. 'Baby Colors' by Armstrong was quite attractive with striking fantasy blooms of dark blue and pink stripes above beautiful variegated foliage. Grown by Marie Burns, it's a "to die for" cultivar for any fantasy lover. 'Symphonette', by Yvonne Lambert, was lovely with lavender two-tone blooms on pointed, Tommy Lou variegated semi foliage. If you're looking for yellow, consider Lyon's Greenhouses 'Golden Eye', with creamy blooms streaked with deep yellow rays, accented with double pollen sacs! Just think "yellow"! The blooms are held by dark red stems above pink and dark green variegated foliage. All in all, a striking specimen! Lyon's 'Shooting Stars' also made quite an impression. It's a slightly fluted deep blue star with white edge on top of very shiny, almost black foliage. Finally, it was good to see 'Rob's Hot Chocolate' in the show. This plant is stunning with its very dark, almost black, wavy, shiny foliage which makes a perfect foil for the hot pink two-tone frilled blooms. It's a hard cultivar to find, but keep an eye out for it as it's worth a try!

### MAC'S MARVELOUSLY MESMERIZING MINIS

Convention on the east coast brought to national attention several varieties overlooked or rarely seen elsewhere. Consider the hybrids of George McDonald, who for years has been trying to introduce 'Tomahawk' red and red/coral blooms to the miniature and semiminature world. If you know anything of his endeavors, you would have been delighted to see his plants at convention. 'Mac's Southern Springtime' is a beautiful white with deep red multicolor bloom. 'Mac's Regal Raiment' is a fluted deep red bloom on

dark, serrated, pointed semi foliage. 'Mac's Stop Sign' is a deep red with a white edge on rounded white TLV foliage. Quite a striking mini! 'Mac's Something Special' is a deep blood red single with prominent pollen sacks on top of medium green and yellow variegated TLV foliage. 'Mac's Smoldering Sapphire' takes you to the blue spectrum with dark purple fantasy puff blooms on dark, glossy black foliage. 'Mac's Luxurious Leisure' is dark purple red with a white edge on ruffled variegated foliage. This was one of the few 'Mac's' with ruffled foliage. 'Mac's Incredibly Infrared' is a deep red pansy with obvious pollen sacks on TLV foliage. 'Mac's Shangrila Serendipity' was my personal favorite, with pretty coral pink singles on pink and green variegated foliage. 'Mac's Romantic Rendezvous' has hot pink semidoubles on TLV pink foliage. Caveat: because of his hybridizing goals, some of Mac's cultivars tend to grow a bit large, but with further refinement this should not be a problem. His contributions to broadening the strength of red/coral color areas in minis and semis are welcomed! I'll address where you can find some of these hybrids in the November issue.

### UPDATE

My July column featured a cultivar I told you I'd have to update. 'Rob's Slap Happy' came into bloom while I was away at convention. When I returned I was delighted to see a light coral/pink, almost tan bloom, nothing like I've seen in the mini and semi world. It comes closest to the work Michelle Tremblay was doing with coral/salmon, as we saw with 'Melanie J'. Rob agrees it is a large semi, but the foliage coloration topped by the exquisitely colored blooms make it a "must try" for everyone. As the temperature in my house grows warmer, it's foliage color is changing yet again, adding more green, and it's even lovelier. The blooms on 'Rob's Bed Bug' are just beginning to open. It looks to be quite an excellent bloomer, putting up several bloom stalks heavily loaded with buds! As it is deadline time for the column, I'll have to tell you of the blossom color next time. Also, we'll discuss the commercial section of convention: show winners, new hybrids, and what commercials are growing to exhibit. Until then, good growing!

## In Memory

### Denzel ("Dee") Probert



Dee Probert passed away in April, 2002, in Costa Mesa, California. She was a long time member of AVSA as well as an active member of Tustana AVS, the Grow & Study Gesneriad Club, and the Southern California AV Council. She was an award-winning grower of violets and many other plants in the Gesneriad family. She is remembered and respected for her artistic abilities in design for which she repeatedly won ribbons and trophies. Over the years, Dee shared numerous tips and tricks with her fellow enthusiasts through the programs she presented about growing, designing, and showing.

### Iain W. Paterson, Sr.

Iain Paterson of Merrillville, Indiana, passed away in December, 2001. He was a charter member of the Hoosier AVS and served as the publisher/editor of the club newsletter for several years. He was famous for his "no" votes on most issues as he said, "nothing was good enough to be unanimous". Iain was generous with his time and ready to share his knowledge of African violets with all.





# AVSA Affiliates

Bev Promersberger - *Affiliate Chairman*

7992 Otis Way • Pensacola, FL 32506 • [Promers22@hotmail.com](mailto:Promers22@hotmail.com)

## Make It Easier

Many club members have shared with me that their greatest number of visitors/new members have been people who found their information posted on the internet.

Who enters the affiliate information on the web site?

Who makes the affiliate changes on the web site?

**The answer is: the Affiliate Chairman!**

Affiliates, make sure you have submitted your information for the Affiliate web site. There are only twenty-five clubs that have not. Many others do not have the information complete enough for a person on the internet to make contact.

Some of you are thinking that your club is listed, so, why should you read any further? There are very few affiliates that have complete information. Those few affiliates are making the best use of the web site. It's free publicity!

If your club hasn't submitted its local information, please contact me at either of the addresses above. I can mail you a form via snail mail or email. Another option is to make sure that your president returns the form that was included with the insurance information, sent out each fall from the AVSA Office. Be sure to complete both sides of this form.

So, how can you and your affiliate "make it easier"?

1. Make sure that you send any information or changes to one of the addresses above, **not the AVSA Office!** Keep your club information current. One potential member drove several hours on the wrong day because the club failed to correct the information when they changed meeting days. I do my best to make the changes immediately.
2. Make sure you know the correct **name of your affiliate**. The two most common errors are: 1. placing the AVS after the first name of the affiliate instead of at the beginning or vice versa (i.e. Syracuse AVS instead of AVS of Syracuse) and 2. deleting "the" before the name of the club when it should be present and adding it when it should not be present. It's easier for you to check one club than my having to check 300 clubs to find it.
3. Make sure the **name of the meeting facility** is accurate. I have received several inaccurate duplicates. The meeting place is shared by several clubs at different times. The name has a different variation with each club. It makes me wonder how accurate other facility names really are. Check it out. Look it up in the telephone book. Again, it is easier for you to check on just one. Make sure the address is complete, including the zip code.
4. Make sure the **meeting information** is complete. Include the day of the month, the time, and the month unless you meet all twelve months of the year. If the meeting location, day, and time is not complete, it is essential that you list complete information under your club contact. How else can someone find out when and where your members meet?
5. Make sure the **contact information** is correct and complete. How can a person attend a meeting that is listed as being held

in "members' homes" with no contact listed? You should consider those new in the area wanting to attend a meeting. Is there sufficient information on the web site to make a contact? Make it easy, not just possible, for someone surfing the net to find you. Many of you have only a mailing address listed. The most important contact information is the telephone number and the email address. How many people want to write and mail a letter when picking up the phone or using email is so much easier?

Make sure your **contact information** is complete. The contact should be willing to return a phone call or an email. I referred several people to one club. The contact was never home and never responded back. The club folded. Surprise?

The reason for a contact is so people can find out about your club. I often have people contact me. I respond as quickly as possible. It is important; it makes a good first impression. The rest is up to you. I receive a lot of questions regarding the growing of violets and always try to connect them to a grower/club in their local area. In turn, I also contact the person I referred the grower to, hoping that the contact will reach out.

The idea behind the contact was that it not be the president, a position that could change each year. Instead, the purpose is a steady contact with all three means of contact: address, telephone number, and email address. Why list a contact who is never home and doesn't have an email address? Why list a contact who only wants their mailing address listed? Get a good contact and keep it as long as the contact is willing and active. Don't keep changing it.

6. Make sure your **club's URL** is correct. Sometimes the www is added when it should not be. Sometimes the http:// should not be included. Most often the http:// is automatically entered by the computer and placing it before your site enters it twice. The result is no access. It is easier for you to check one than my checking all.

7. Lastly, make the most of the notes section but **do not use it to advertise** the dates of your upcoming show. This field is to state that an annual show/sale is held at a same place and/or time each year (i.e. spring, fall, Mother's Day weekend). It is not to be listed with specific dates. There is a special site for that. Log onto [www.avsa.org](http://www.avsa.org), click on 'Coming events', and enter the information, as you want it listed. It will automatically delete itself after the date is past.

I have been entering the affiliate web site information from its first installation, when I accepted the responsibility in 1997. It will "make it easier" for the AVSA Office if you send your information and changes to either of my addresses above. It will "make it easier" for a potential member to find you if your information is complete and accurate. It will "make it easier" for me if you would respond in accordance with the seven suggestions above.

Thank you.

# MINUTES ANNUAL MEETING AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

May 25, 2002 • Arlington, Virginia

The Annual Business Meeting of the African Violet Society of America was called to order by Joyce Stork, Third Vice President, at 2:35 PM in the Regency Room of the Hyatt Regency, Crystal City Hotel, Arlington, Virginia. The Invocation was given by Sue Ramser followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Joyce Stork presented the President, John (Jack) Wilson.

Sue Ramser, Secretary, reported a quorum was present. Mrs. Ramser also read the Standing Rules and moved adoption. The motion was seconded and the Standing Rules were adopted.

President Wilson announced the appointment of the Committee to Approve the Minutes of the 2002 Annual Meeting with Harry Weber, Chairman, Kathy Lahti and Byron Borch. John Carter was appointed Timekeeper.

Barbara Pershing, Chairman of the Committee to Approve the 2001 Annual Meeting Minutes, reported that the minutes were approved.

Elinor Skelton, Chairman of the Resolution Committee, presented the Courtesy Resolution, which is attached. It was adopted.

Nancy Hayes, Nominating Committee Chairman, presented the following report: Committee members, Shannon Ahlman, Nebraska; Mary Boland, Virginia; Linda Golubski, Missouri; Jane Rexilius, Texas; Directors: Byron Borch, California; David Buttram, Missouri; Janice Davidson, Texas; Kathy Lahti, Minnesota; Harry Weber, Colorado. No nominations were received from the floor and Bill Foster moved the Nominations cease. The Directors were elected and will be installed at the Banquet.

The retiring Directors were recognized: Helen Blanton, Alice Easter, Georgette Jolivet, Barbara Pershing, and Edna Rourke.

The retiring Chairmen were recognized: Lynn Lombard, Master List of Species; Iris Keating, Plant Registration; and Paula Foster, Courtesy.

The 2003 Convention will be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and Elmer Godeny, Convention Chairman, extended an invitation

to the membership to attend. The theme of the convention is Louisiana Lagniappe. Lagniappe means "a little extra".

There was no new business.

Nancy Hayes, Membership and Promotion Chairman, reported that the committee contacts each new member. The committee has challenged the membership by offering the five affiliates and five individuals who recruit the most new members a free one-year membership. The Affiliate with the most new members will receive \$50.00. The individual with the most new members will receive a hand painted tray. The Committee will be focusing on people attending the show and the current membership - make a donation of a membership to someone so AVSA can grow. Twelve new members were added during the show.

Joyce Stork asked if the members have completed the blue convention survey, and if not they were asked to do so before leaving the convention. A committee will evaluate how conventions are conducted. Nancy Hayes will compile the surveys.

Winston Goretsky invited the members to attend the Canadian Convention, May 7-10, 2003 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

It was announced that a list of members who had died during last year was distributed. The following names should be added: Kay Burnam of Oklahoma, Mary Lankford of Texas, Bill Lyons of Pennsylvania and Frank Tinari died May 24. Frank had been ill.

President Wilson announced that the Open Forum and the announcement of the winners of the raffles would be conducted immediately after the close of the Annual Meeting.

There was no further business to come before the Annual Meeting and the meeting was adjourned at 2:55 PM.

*Sue Ramser, Secretary  
COMMITTEE TO APPROVE  
Harry Weber, Chairman  
Kathy Lahti  
Byron Borch*

## Culture Tip for Micro-miniatures

by Charlotte C. Eberhard

If you have trouble keeping your micro-miniature plants properly damp, particularly in a low-humidity climate like ours in Arizona, the following technique might help.

(It also helps if you are a photographer or know someone who is.)

Plant each little plant in the standard 1 1/4 inch plastic pot, but wick each with a single strand of Orion yarn or the equivalent.

Dangle each little tail in an empty plastic container for 35mm film.

You'll find that the pot fits as if it were designed for this purpose.

Fill the reservoir with your usual diluted fertilizer solution

and place the entire thing under the lights in the same way you do for the larger plants.

Kodak uses opaque black plastic. Algae will not grow in these reservoirs. Fuji film comes in translucent containers. These do need to be cleaned out occasionally, but they allow you to check the water level more readily.

The choice is yours, but it is surprising how much water these little plants use.

If you find that the set up is a bit tipsy, the bottom of the reservoir can be glued to a piece of cardboard or thin plywood, or you can put a pebble in the container.

From *Blossoms*, publication of the Seattle AVS

# Practical Tips for Hybridizing African Violets

by Sharon E. Holtzman

Whether it's a first time venture or a project you've undertaken before, creating new African violets from seed is exciting. It's true that as the years go by the likelihood of developing a violet that is totally new or strikingly different becomes slimmer, but the babies will be "your" babies and that in itself brings so much joy. You will anticipate, fret, hover, nurture, and like many a parent, you may even do a little bit of bragging about your little green (or variegated) offspring.

You will see them from infancy, through toddler-hood, and then come the teen times when your violets begin to "show their stuff" with their first blooms. By this time, you also have a good idea of whether or not they have "unruly foliage". You've given them the best and should expect the best, but what if you end up with "just another purple drop-per"... Compost Heap! In the beginning this was next to impossible for me to do, but I'm getting better. I no longer have to close my eyes when I toss them.

It's a good idea to make a list of attributes that you would like to see in some of your favorite hybrids, maybe:

1. Heavy blooming with sturdy upright bloom stems.
2. Foliage with good, natural symmetry that doesn't need a support ring to grow large.
3. Good, clear color in the blooms (not muddy or washed out).
4. Fantasy blooms that remain stable through three generations.
5. Plants that can be propagated easily, producing strong babies.

There is much that could be added to this list, but let it serve as a guide when deciding which of your own hybrids to keep and which to part with.

If you plan to do any amount of hybridizing, you will need at least a basic knowledge of genetics and what shows up as dominant or recessive traits in African violets. It's up to you how much research you do on this subject. In addition to the many fine articles that have appeared in the *African Violet Magazine*, I suggest the following reading:

[African Violets, Gifts from Nature](#) by Melvin J. Robey

[Growing African Violets](#) by Ruth Coulson

[African Violets](#) by Joan Hill and Gwen Goodship

[African Violets](#) by Tony Clements

Here is a basic list of dominant and recessive traits to get you started.

## Dominant

Purple  
Double Blooms  
Edged Blooms  
Pansy Shaped Blooms  
Fantasy Blooms (though not always stable)

## Recessive

White, Pink, Coral and many Reds  
Single Blooms  
Star Shaped Blooms

**Note:** If you wish to produce plants with variegated foliage, you must use a variegated plant as your seedpod (mother) plant.

If you speak to five growers who have raised African violets from seed, it's possible that you could learn ten different ways of doing it. Over the years of trial and error, in my own plant room environment, I've settled on specific procedures that work well for me. These I will share with you, but please know that none of my tips are written in stone. What works in my conditions may NOT work in your own. Some experimentation on your part may be necessary.

**Repotting:** When you've chosen the plant that you wish to use as your seed parent, plan to pollinate the first time it blooms after it has been repotted. It can take up to six months for some seed pods to ripen, and your plant must remain healthy that entire time. The forming pods draw a lot of energy from your plants, and if they were already in need of repotting at the time of pollination, they may not be able to sustain the pod growth.

**Looking for a receptive stigma:** When the stigma is ready to accept pollen, a dewdrop will appear on the end of it. A small, hand-held magnifying glass is extremely useful in spotting this. Carefully remove the anthers and petals from the bloom you have selected to pollinate.

**Transferring pollen:** The pollen should be of a powdery consistency, not wet and clumpy. I've tried many different methods of transferring pollen - paintbrush, thumbnail, and tweezers, but the easiest for me is to use the bloom itself. Remove the bloom from the plant and use a tiny pair of embroidery scissors to snip the tops off the anthers. Cup the bloom in your fingers so that the petals are slightly closed and flick the anthers with a toothpick. The pollen, if it is the right consistency, will be released and caught on the petals. Take the entire bloom to the waiting stigma to transfer the pollen with a light touch of the pistil to the petals. Do not push the pollen into the stigma as you may damage it. If conditions are just right, the pollen will almost be magnetically pulled to the stigma, as you get close.

**Marking your cross:** Do this immediately; do not commit it to memory. I have tried many things but prefer to use



small jewelry tags that measure 13/16"x 3/8". To ensure that I do not disturb the pollen once it is placed on the stigma, I tie my tag to the stem before pollination and I tie it close to the stem rather than leaving it dangling. The plant continues to grow as the seed pods are ripening. Over several months, you can create quite a mess of dangling strings, even more so if you pollinate more than one blossom on the same plant.

**Be patient:** I've been told that it can take up to nine months for a seedpod to ripen, but I find that an average is closer to six months. Pods take different shapes. There are round ones, egg shaped ones, and long pointed ones. From my own personal observations it seems that a plant with round leaves will produce round pods and a plant with pointed leaves will produce long pods. I have also noticed that the round pods may take at least a month longer to ripen than the pointed ones. I have gotten viable seed from pods that ripened in only four months, but I'm always more relieved if they ripen a bit longer than that. Chances are that a pod that dries and shrivels in less than four months will contain nothing but debris.

When the seedpod is ripe, it will turn from light green to brown. In a day or two it will begin to shrivel. When the stem is very dry, it is time to cut it from the plant. I remove the pod and lay it on a creased index card for another two to three days before I remove the seed from the pod.

**Storing your seed:** My seeds are placed in small squares of tissue paper and stored in glassine (transparent) envelopes. Each envelope is marked with the name of the cross, noting the foliage of each parent, the date of the cross, and the date that the seedpod was harvested. I do not store my seed in the refrigerator, but on a shelf next to the desk in my plant room. It's cool and dry, not exposed to light, and I can trust that my seeds will still be viable a year later. This is why I like to note the date of the harvest. At a glance, I know the age of my seeds.

**Sowing your seed:** The seeds of African violets are dust-like and should only be sprinkled on top of moist growing medium when sown. Never bury the seeds. It is important that the medium you use should be essentially sterile. My two favorites are reconstituted Jiffy Pellets and a commercial greenhouse germination mix. I usually sow about fifteen seeds from one pod, because you will get a representative sample of plants from that cross without crowding you out of your home. After I sow my seeds on top of this moist mix, they are placed in a closed clear plastic container and placed very close to my lights, about four inches from the tubes. I have seen germination in as little as eight days, but the average in my plant room is fourteen to twenty one days.

As soon as I see a good amount of germination, I begin

to harden off my seedlings by opening the container a little bit more each day for about a week. After that it is opened completely. This is when it is vitally important that you do not let your seedlings dry out and you may have to look at them several times each day. It is best to water your seedlings from the bottom with tepid water and drain as soon as you see that the top your growing medium is moist. I continue in this way for about a month.

**Pricking out the seedlings:** I know that I probably begin pricking my seedlings out earlier than most growers, and it is a little scary the first time because the seedlings seem so delicate. I gained much confidence over time and find that they really benefit from "having their own space" from early on.

As soon as I find I have something to hold on to, even before the first set of true leaves show, I begin transplanting them. With the aid of a toothpick, each seedling is pressed into a moist growing medium in a small plug cell. I use the germination mix in these cells because it has a "starter charge" and I don't need to fertilize right away. These groups of cell plugs go back under a clear plastic cover and are placed about five to six inches below my lights. After three weeks you can begin to harden off these seedlings the same way you did before, opening the container a little more each day until it is finally removed completely.

You will be amazed at how quickly the seedlings will grow from this point on. In no time at all, because they were given their own space, you will be able to see and compare the foliage growth of one to another. Shortly after the leaves of plants in adjoining cells begin to touch each other, starting with the largest plants, the plugs can be pushed out and the seedlings transplanted into small pots. I use either the two-inch plastic Solo cups or two and a half inch square pots with my own "pasteurized" formula of growing medium. The plants can be wick watered at this time, if you choose to do so.

I usually grow these on matting in community trays until they show their first bloom. I do this because I can have several hundred seedlings coming along at the same time, and I have better things to do than hand wash the reservoirs of plants that may be destined for the compost heap if they turn out to be "just another purple dropper".

As with any other hobby, there is much more fulfillment if you can experience all aspects. If you've been successful and have enjoyed growing African violets, by all means treat yourself to the wonderful experience of hybridizing.

From *African Violet Leaves*, publication of the Illinois AVS



# Bleaching

by Cheryl Salatino

Fading foliage is a condition known as "bleaching."

The plants are either receiving too much light or they are lacking in nitrogen. This situation can occur in all varieties of African violets, although species plants are especially sensitive to light conditions. I have found that several species varieties in my collection are happiest when grown in natural light. However, windowsill exposure doesn't guarantee a bleaching condition will not persist. As an example, the foliage on my species *Saintpaulia grandifolia* often becomes translucent in a window that receives medium light early in the day. My solution has been to move the plant to a shadier location. Remarkably, the plant's green foliage returns within a day or two. Other species varieties take much longer to gain back a healthy colored foliage once overexposed. After placing species varieties in protected locations, in time the natural foliage color should return.

For standards, trailers, semis and minis, altering the position of the plant on the light stand can help prevent bleaching. The ends of the bulbs usually emit the least amount of light (check your brand to make certain this is true). Monitor the results carefully so you know whether the bleaching condition was due to excessive light. Rule of thumb, the lighter the leaf color, the less light the plant requires.

If a location change doesn't solve your problem, consider feeding these plants periodically with a nitrogen rich fertilizer (the first number is nitrogen). Or try a fish emulsion solution. There are a few varieties of fish emulsion products commercially available at local garden centers. Fish emulsion solutions contain a good dose of nitrogen. Please be careful, too much nitrogen can cause problems too!!

From *Ye Bay Stater*, publication of the Bay State AVS



## Expert Advice On Watering

by Joyce Stork

Nature watered violets in two ways...overhead rain that dripped through the tree canopy, and underneath when the rock crevices in which the plants grew filled with run-off water.

To be perfect, water both ways. Violets grown in plastic pots need to be watered thoroughly once a week (twice if in clay pots). To do this, water directly into the top of the soil (not into the leaf crown) until water runs out into the saucer. About thirty minutes later, EMPTY THE SAUCER!

As an alternative, fill the saucer with room temperature water and allow the plant to soak up as much as it can in thirty minutes, and again empty the saucer. Either method is good, but be sure to top water at least once a month to control fertilizer salt build-up.

Many top growers choose a constant water method because of their large collections. These include self-watering pots (pretty ceramic two-piece containers with water in the bottom container and the violet potted in the top), wicking, or

capillary matting. When wicked, violets are potted in very loose soil mixes with a manmade fiber wick, such as acrylic yarn, that extends through the pot and about six inches below. The violet is suspended above a source of water with the wick dangling into the reservoir. This can be accomplished with a deli carton with a hole cut in the top. Place the plant on the lid and allow the wick to dangle through the hole into the carton that is filled with water.

Capillary matting also uses a wick but the plants are set directly onto saturated matting made of acrylic or nylon materials (such as blanket fabric or quilt batting). Growers then add water to keep the matting wet, but not floating. With any constant water method, it is still wise to top water occasionally. The goal of good watering is to provide even and adequate moisture without getting the soil so wet that root rot can occur.

From *The Violet Connection*,  
publication of the Ohio State AVS

# Vintage Violets



**Barbara Elkin**  
*Vintage Violets Committee*  
2855 Gayle Lane  
Auburn, CA 95602-9674  
email: [bjabar@earthlink.net](mailto:bjabar@earthlink.net)

## Goose Eggs

No I don't mean zero, but goose eggs - like in the feathered kind. My youngest daughter-in-law, Lorraine, is a bird lover. With good intentions, my daughter-in-law's neighbors robbed the local ducks and geese of their eggs. Large fish live in the nearby ponds and eat the very young hatchlings.

Lorraine placed the purloined eggs in an incubator, and in a few weeks, she was the mother of twelve ducks and eight geese. Growing rapidly, they were soon large enough for a dip in the pond, the fish no longer being a factor. Every morning, they follow her from their pen to the pond. In the evening,

they follow her back to shelter. The strangest part is that they think of Lorraine as Mama. A mama, I might add, without feathers. This fall they will fly away and be gone forever.

The moral of this story is when a Vintage Violet is gone, *it's gone forever*. Please back up your Vintage Violets by putting down a leaf every once in a while. That way, you will always have that treasure. Maybe someone will write and ask for a leaf and you'll have one on hand.

Remember when receiving something from another grower to return the postage, asked for or not.

## AVSA Most Wanted Vintage Violets

Antique Bliss

Bud's Lonesome George  
Hot Buttered Rum

Julie Marie

Maverick's Tight Jeans  
Megan

Molly's Folly

Peach Frost  
Purple Smoke Rings

Rhapsodie Dolly

Rene Edmondson  
Sansoucy

Valerie

Wrangler's High Country



## Speakin' Cajun

by Elmer Godeny (Part 2 of 4)

In the last issue of the *African Violet Magazine*, I listed some cajun terms which may help you understand the culture of South Louisiana. In the remaining three parts of this Cajun Dictionary, we will define food items and terms. These terms are "lagniappe" to help you when you are looking over a menu in Baton Rouge at the upcoming AVSA National Convention. Many of these definitions are provided by Louisiana's internationally known Chef John Folse.

**Beignet** (ben'-yea) - Deep-fried, square-shaped, sweet doughnuts (minus the hole) lavishly sprinkled with powdered sugar.

**Café au Lait** (caf-ay' oh-lay') - Coffee and chicory blend with milk. Usually a half- and- half mixture of hot coffee and hot milk. Excellent in the morning with beignets.

**Café Brûlot** (caf-ay' broo-loh') - A dramatic after-dinner brew of hot coffee, spices, orange peel, and liqueurs blended in a chafing dish, ignited and served in special cups.

**Chicory** (chick'-or-ee) - An herb, the roots of which are dried, ground, roasted, and used to flavor coffee.

**King Cake** - A ring-shaped pastry decorated with colored sugar in the traditional Mardi Gras colors: purple, green and gold. Traditionally served during the carnival season. A small plastic baby is hidden inside the cake and the person who finds it is blessed for the next year (if he doesn't need dental work) and must provide the next King Cake.

**Pecans** (peh'-cons) - A nut which seems to fall from the skies in southern Louisiana and is used in many desserts. The Yankee pronunciation of this nut is (pea'-cans) which is something Louisianians put under their beds at night so they don't have to get out of bed and walk to the bathroom.

**Praline** (praw'-leen) - A candy patty in the New Orleans tradition. The sweetest of sweets. The essential ingredients include sugar, water and pecans.

# A Family Portrait

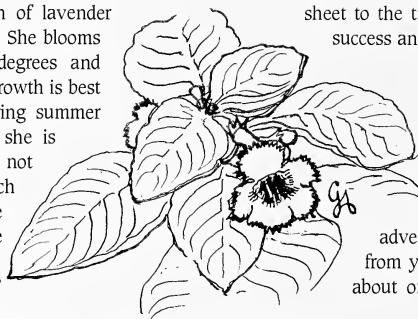


**Georgene Albrecht**  
101 Oak Heights Drive  
Oakdale, PA 15071

What a great color combination of lavender bloom and bright, lime green foliage! She blooms when temperatures are over 78 degrees and humidity is high. Most of the time, growth is best in a terrarium atmosphere, but during summer when my growing area is humid, she is allowed to roam free. The blooms do not last long, but they are spectacular. Each flower has a circle of white on the inner petals and lavender on the highly fringed edges.

*Episcia fimbriata* 'Blue Heaven' (eh-PISH-ee-ah fim-bree-AY-tah) has an outstanding dark purple stripe in the throat of the bloom.

Maybe they are really spots, but they are so close together that they look like stripes. She likes a lot of light, at least 1000 foot candles to produce bloom. Remember, any plant that does not bloom usually lacks light. If I were limited to three *Episcias*, this would be one of the three. Perhaps the other two would be a pink-leaved *E. 'Cleopatra'* and one with the metallic, red leaves such as 'Alice's Aussie' by McKhee.



*Episcia fimbriata* 'Blue Heaven'

## FUNDRAISER

Many of our club members were unable to go to convention. Our treasury needed a boost so I decided to scour the vendors to find new and interesting plants to take back home for a silent auction. I bought the newest varieties of mature African violet plants, leaves, and gesneriads. Another club member brought many plants to donate. We had two tables full for them to bid on. A silent auction is very easy to do. Just make a bid sheet with a minimum bid and set a time limit for bidding to end. The last and highest bidder gets the plant. There were a few plants that caused fast and furious bidding. Each successful bidder gathered his plant and took the bid

sheet to the treasurer for tabulation. It was a great success and added a nice sum to the kitty.

We sent postal cards to invite former members and visitors; we had a nice turnout.

Some former members rejoined after they rekindled friendships and saw the plants. Could your club have a "Silent Auction"? I will bet that our advertisers would love to get a nice big order from your club. The entire auction only took about one-half hour and we did that as the workshop part of our meeting. If we fly to Louisiana for the next convention, perhaps we will bring home goodies to share.

## VELCRO

Cyndi Boesse has come up with a great idea about labels. She puts a tab of Velcro on each pot so that she can attach a small label on it. If you change the pot, just move the label. Each pot can be washed and reused very easily. Velcro really sticks so there is little chance of losing that label. Cyndi is a never-ending source of information. We are so lucky to have her join us. We have members who are capable of giving great programs. The hand-outs are fantastic. We encourage every member to do programs. Most love to do them because our meetings are informal and we have so much fun. Nothing is intimidating. We still do three parts to our meetings: beginners' class, workshop, and a main program. Dear Bill Lyons had written that he wanted to know how to inspire his club. Well, one must constantly avoid stagnation and keep members so interested that they love to attend the meetings. We also need new blood and members who are willing and able to tackle anything. We will so miss Bill. We lost Frank Tinari

in the same convention week. They were two wonderful Pennsylvanians who loved and were loved in the violet world. They leave us with great memories of their devotion.

A club must have key people willing to "keep the ball rolling" and think of the good of others in their club. I have often seen a club smothered by officers who think the club is for their benefit only. Every club member should go away from the meeting inspired and smiling. Personal clashes have no place in a meeting. Some of the "me" generation have a hard time doing this. Keeping a meeting fun and interesting is the secret to good attendance and membership.

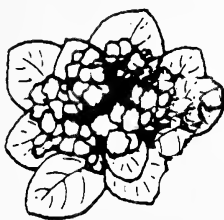
If you are anywhere near, our Pittsburgh chapter is going to have a show and sale at the Northland Public Library, 300 Cumberland Road, in the North Hills of Pittsburgh the last weekend of September. Write me for information. We would love to meet you.

## BAG IT

At the convention I overheard this tip from someone who attended a lecture I did not. The person grew many of her violets on top of reservoirs, and she got tired of scrubbing the water holders. Thus, she decided to place plastic bags in each one so that she could dispose of the used one and replace it with a clean bag. What a great time-saver! My dollar stores have very inexpensive plastic bags, and I guess one could even use a sheet of plastic wrap to line the reservoirs.

## COOL CLEAR WATER

Remember to save the water that drips from your air conditioner. It is very pure and wonderful to use in enclosed containers. It really is much better than my tap water. Enjoy growing a new gesneriad or violet this fall. Attend a show, too, if you can. Good growing to you all.



# 2003 Awards - Best of the Bayou

Baton Rouge promised AVSA a Lagniappe (cajun for "something extra") and believe me, it has begun! The specified variety award list is impressive! Old and new come together to offer you lots of fun, with a nice payback to boot! So let's get busy growing. Laissez les bon temps roulez! (Let the good times roll!)

Best Ozio - \$100 (In Memory of L.T. Ozio, Baton Rouge AVS - LA - disbanded)

Best Buckeye Candy Kisses - \$75 (Pat Hancock - OH)

Best Irish Flirt - \$50 & rosette (Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses - NY)

Best Lilian Jarrett Variegated (#2902) - \$50 (Mrs. Anne Tinari in memory of Frank Tinari - PA)

Best Alps - \$50 (Kazuo Horikoshi - Japan)

Best Concord - \$50 (Kazuo Horikoshi - Japan)

Best Dean's Cupid - \$25 (Shirley & Sandy Sanders - TX)

Best Dean's Arctic Frost - \$25 (Shirley & Sandy Sanders - TX)

Best Everdina - \$25 (Hans & Everdina Inpijn - CA)

Best Maas' Mark - \$25 (Union County Chapter AVS - NJ)

Best Mickey Mouse - \$25 (Hans & Everdina Inpijn - CA)

Best Precious Pink - \$25 (Mary McFarland, in memory of Sallie Wunderlich - LA)

Best Rob's Bed Bug - \$25 (Ms. Ovella Hall - AR)

Best Sundown Trail - \$25 & rosette (Sundowners' AVS - LA)

Best Windy Day - \$25 (AVS of Greater Tulsa - OK)

Best Blue Boy - \$10 (Nadine Tichy - TX)

Best Bristol's Hey Mei (*Streptocarpus*) - \$25 (Ms. Ovella Hall - AR)

A preview of specific varieties gives everyone a head start to grow and show for these awards. This year should be a lucrative year for exhibitors, thanks to the generosity of our membership and loyal affiliates. Look for the complete listing of all awards in your Jan/Feb AVM. Why not become a part of the Louisiana festivities and be included in the list by sending in your award today!

Deadline to be included in the Jan/Feb listing is November 15. Final deadline for 2003 awards contributions is February 15, 2003. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sue Hoffmann, AVSA Awards Chairman, 801 N. Villier Court, Virginia Beach, VA 23452. (757) 463-5383, or [susan.hoffmann@juno.com](mailto:susan.hoffmann@juno.com).

Please make your checks payable in U.S. Funds, to: AVSA Awards.

P.S. We've already received a \$25 award for 2004! Maas' Janet, named for our own Janet Riemer, from Chris Leppard - MI. Why not track it down and start a leaf?

# How to care for that New Plant

by Marge Huntley

This could mean a new plant you have just bought from a nursery or supermarket. Or, it could be one you bought at a club sale, either a starter plant or a flowering plant. It may even be a plant you bought at a club show and you wonder what to do next.

## Important

All plants from any source should be kept isolated from your collection for at least a month to ensure that you do not introduce any disease or infestation.

All plants, to thrive and flower, must be grown in a position where they obtain good light. They should be as near to the window as possible without direct sun, which burns both flowers and foliage. Except in high summer, morning sun usually will not cause damage. However, you will soon know which of your windows are suitable. If you have a light stand, you are set.

All plants need to be watered and fertilized regularly or wicked and placed on reservoirs filled with water and the appropriate amount of a balanced fertilizer. Some growers water by standing pots in water-filled saucers. If you have success with this method, continue it, but always water each pot from the top with plain water every month or so. This should also be done with wicked plants. It washes any unused fertilizer salts from the mix and prevents staining on the pot rim.

## New plant from the supermarket

Some do not advise growers to buy these plants for various reasons. No doubt clean, healthy plants are delivered from the commercial growers, but it can be all downhill from there. Sometimes we see some lovely (unfortunately unnamed) varieties that we cannot resist. The potting mix is usually heavier than we use and is unsuitable for wick watering.

Keep plants watered and fed to enjoy the blooms.

When flowering ceases it is time to repot into a lighter potting mix, placing a wick in each pot. Commercial growers do not remove sideshoots (making a fuller looking plant). At repotting, the plant must be divided into its separate crowns and one planted to each pot. If radical cutting was done, ensure that plant is not overwatered.

A starter plant bought at a meeting or show will have the date of potting on the pot. It will generally need to be potted up to a bigger pot three months from that date and earlier if it does very well. In the meantime, water and feed it with a high

nitrogen fertilizer.

A flowering plant bought from another member will also be dated and may have a wick. You can place it on a reservoir filled with water and an appropriate amount of a balanced fertilizer. If the plant has not yet flowered, the fertilizer could be one in which the middle number of the N.P.K. is the highest.

The lovely flowering plant you bought at the club show will eventually be out of bloom and need to be repotted. Keep it fed and watered until a cooler spell, then repot. The size of the new pot will depend on the size of the root ball, but often, flowering sized plants can be repotted into the same size pot.

During the hot weather, plants benefit from a daily spray over the foliage. Water should be hot, as it cools in the air before reaching the foliage.

From the *Newsletter of the Early Morn Group*,  
Australia and New Zealand

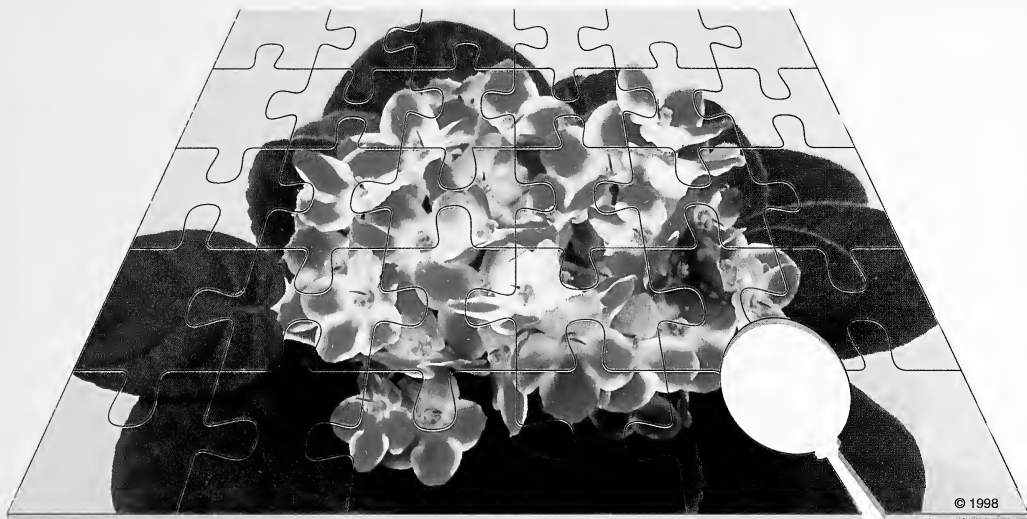
## CALLING ALL AVSA MEMBERS - A PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS, A PRIZE FOR YOUR DEEDS!!

Nancy G. Hayes - *Chairperson*  
AVSA Membership and Promotion Committee  
9 Cobblestone Rd. • Bloomfield, CT 06002  
[john.hayes@snet.net](mailto:john.hayes@snet.net)

Our African Violet Society lives and breathes for its members. We now need our members to live and breathe for us! The AVSA Membership and Promotion Committee announces a contest for the calendar year that began in January, 2002 and runs through December 31st, 2002. We are seeking the five top affiliate and five top individual membership recruiters for AVSA.

These affiliates and individuals must secure at least ten new members to be eligible for the prize, ONE YEAR FREE MEMBERSHIP! In addition, we will interview and highlight these winners in the AVM. Undoubtedly, their efforts will give ideas to others to help increase our membership.

These new memberships must be clearly marked as secured by a specific affiliate or individual. The winners will be notified by the AVSA Membership and Promotion Committee and announced in the AVM and at the Annual Convention in 2003. If there are any questions, you can contact me at the above address. One of my dreams is that we will have more than ten winners. Let's see how far-fetched that dream is!



# What's Missing From This Picture?

Chances are, few of today's garden centers know as much about growing African Violets as you do. No doubt, this explains why so many knowledgeable Violet growers have a hard time finding the products they need. For anyone who knows what it takes to grow beautiful, full-blooming African Violets, it can be like putting together a puzzle, only to find there's a piece missing. We know the feeling. That's why we started the Selective Gardener, a plant care supplier that specializes in products for African Violets.

## Everything You Need to Grow Beautiful, Full-Blooming African Violets

The Selective Gardener makes it easy to get the products you need. As a plant care supplier that specializes in African Violets, the Selective Gardener carries a full line of plant care products with brand names like Optimara.

- Fully-dissolving, urea-free fertilizers
- Self-watering devices such as the Watermaid and the new, spill-proof Optimara WaterShip
- Ultralight, pH-balanced potting media
- Pots, trays and plant covers
- Show accessories and more

## From Leaf Cuttings to Finished Violets

In addition to plant care products, the Selective Gardener offers African Violets in several pot sizes, including genuine Miniatures. You can also order leaf cuttings from all of the available Optimara and Rhapsodie varieties.

## A Complete African Violet Resource

The Selective Gardener is a complete African Violet resource. Send for the Selective Gardener catalog, and you will find offers for plant care products, Violets and leaf cuttings, even books and posters. Or go online, and you will find even more. At the Selective Gardener's internet site (<http://www.selectivegardener.com>), you will have access to a number of resources not available anywhere else.

- Growing tips from the world famous Holtkamp Greenhouses
- Complete interactive Violet identification guide
- Links to other useful sites such as Doctor Optimara, a symptom-based, interactive guide for diagnosing pests and pathogens
- Reviews of African Violet products

**(Tip:** If you do not have access to the internet, try your public library. Many libraries, now, provide computers for public use, as well as helpful assistance for anyone wanting to go online.)

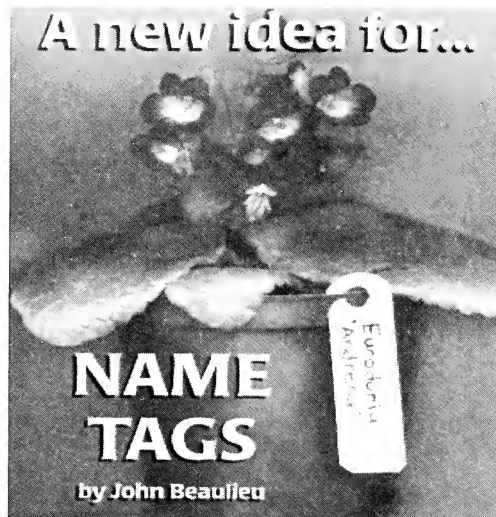
## The Selective Gardener Catalog

To receive the Selective Gardener catalog, send \$1 (which will be credited to your first order) with your name and address to:

The Selective Gardener  
6011 Martingale Lane  
Brentwood, TN 37027

Or visit us online at  
<http://www.selectivegardener.com>.





This may be a new idea for some hobbyists, but I thought of it back in 1988 when doing some required organizing of my miniature *Sinningia* collection. This had been prompted by a generous selection of new varieties from Al Wojcik. Everyone seems to have a favorite way of identifying their plants, and I started to think about improving my method of labeling. I had been using the most popular and easiest way - the traditional plastic name stake. Some hobbyists write on tape or print out labels and apply them to the pot. Others even write on the pot.



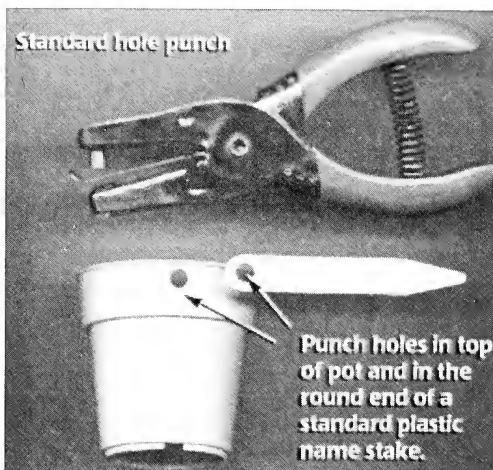
*Plastic name stakes can get in the way of proper foliage growth for many gesneriads.*

I grow most of my miniature sinningias in 2 1/4 inch pots, and usually, there is no clear opening through the leaves for the conventional name stake. This is also a problem for most African violets and many other rosette gesneriads. Leaves can grow deformed with plastic stakes in the way. I do, however, like the ease with which a stake can be moved to a new pot. Then it is just as easy to lose the stake, too!

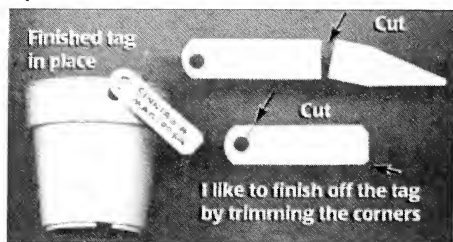
I was reading a tip in an old GSN magazine about using those little plastic bread wrapper ties around the base of propagating African violet leaves. This started me thinking, and lead to a system that works great for me. It has all the advantages wrapped into one: the tag can't fall off, but it can be moved, and the little name tags are clearly visible without picking up the pot. The only catch is that it does take a little time to make the tags, but for me it's worth it.

A standard paper hole punch is used to make a hole both in the pot (just below the rim) and in the middle of the round

end of the small 3 inch plastic name stakes. It will still work if you have (or need) larger name stakes.



The pointed end of the stake is cut off. You can leave the stake (now a tag) as long as you want, and can even trim the sharp corners to finish it off.



A cut must be made from the hole on the tag to an outer edge (shown above) to allow the tag to clip on to the pot. It will stay in place until you want to move it. The pot can be positioned so that the tag can be easily read. The tag will not hinder the growth of your leaves.



You don't need to waste the pointed ends that you cut off the stakes. I use these leftover ends for code numbers or other identification in small pots used for sowing seed. My usual method of starting seed is to cover a standard pot with a clear plastic drinking cup. A few holes are added in the top of the inverted cup for some ventilation.

*From African Violet & Gesneriad News*



# WHAT IS THAT JUMPING IN MY RESERVOIRS?

by Sue Gardner

If you see many small gray or white insects jumping about on the surface of the water in your reservoirs, you know you have springtails! The insects are 1-3mm in length and a distinctive shape.

The name springtail is very apt as the insect uses a structure attached to the abdomen as a spring to project itself through the air.



Springtail enlarged x30

## How Do I Identify Springtails?

Often when growers see springtails in reservoirs, they think they have soil mealy bugs, which also can float in reservoirs of infected plants.

There is a simple test to check that the insects are springtails. Watch them for a few seconds and if they jump, they are springtails. If for some reason the insects are stationary, give them a poke, and if they are springtails, they will jump. Remember soil mealy bugs cannot jump; in fact, they move very slowly. Also, they are a different shape, being oval rather than the narrow elongated shape of springtails. If you examine the rootball of the plants or the potting mix, you will often see springtails darting around. When you use a magnifying glass, they are fairly easy to see because of their rapid movement.

## Are Springtails a Problem?

Springtails live in the potting mix and feed on decaying plant and animal material. They may venture onto the leaves and stems of potted plants and appear in reservoirs or saucers. They reproduce by laying eggs in large numbers in the potting mix. The young springtails soon emerge and grow into adult size within twenty-one days.

If they are in large quantities, you may have a problem with your African violets. The springtails may be feeding on the root hairs. This means that the plant cannot absorb all the water and nutrients it needs to thrive. Fungi can attack the damaged areas of the roots causing root rot.

## What Do I Do if I Have Springtails?

If you have only a few springtails, there is probably no problem and the numbers will remain low if you repot frequently. If you have a large infestation, you will find that the root balls of your plants are not as healthy as they should be. You should try to control the springtails.

Removing the plant from the pot, washing most of the potting mix from the root system, then repotting in fresh potting mix can do this. If this is too drastic for you, just drench the rootball with a solution of insecticidal soap or pyrethrum. Dilute each of these as directed on the bottle.

From the *Newsletter* of the Early Morn  
AV Group, Australia and New Zealand

## AVSA Building Maintenance Fund

Mary Walbrick • 5235 Kingston Drive • Wichita Falls, Texas 76310-3029

E-mail: MWalbrick@aol.com • Fax: 775-243-0836

### Donations received April 1-30, 2002 - Report 4 - May 2002

First AVS of Wichita Falls, Texas, Wichita Falls, TX. ....	\$10.00
<i>In memory of Richard Sanger, husband of Yee Sanger</i>	
Milwaukee AVS, Cudahy, WI .....	10.00
Victoria AVS, Victoria, TX. ....	10.00
Shirley Abrams, Tinton Falls, NJ .....	5.00
Doris R. Acree, McKenzie, TN. ....	5.00
Luanne Arico, Plainsboro, NJ .....	3.00
Barbara Church, Dumont, NJ .....	10.00
Jeanne Church, Jerusalem, AR .....	3.00
Nancy Di Paola, West Covina, CA. ....	6.50
Cathy Dock, Mangum, OK .....	5.00
Corona Heidel, Independence, MO. ....	10.00
Gail Hunley, Burk Burnett, TX .....	20.00
<i>In memory of Richard Sanger, husband of Yee Sanger</i>	
Geneva Mayo, Pulaski, TN. ....	5.00
Janice Murray, New York, NY .....	20.00
Sue Ramser, Wichita Falls, TX .....	20.00
Millie Reavis, Apple Valley, CA. ....	1.00
Kimberly A. Saima, Minneapolis, MN .....	5.00
Hew Chai Seng, Sir Edara Kepong, Malaysia .....	10.00
Vivian Schwartz, Lake Worth, FL .....	5.00

David E. Thomas, Waterbury, CT .....	\$10.00
Mary Walbrick, Wichita Falls, TX .....	20.00
<i>In memory of Richard Sanger, husband of Yee Sanger</i>	
Doris R. Weaver, Stockton, CA .....	1.00
James Welch, San Leandro, CA. ....	40.00
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$234.50</b>

### Donations received May 3 - June 3, 2002 - Report 5

First AVS of Dallas, Dallas, TX .....	\$25.00
<i>In memory of Mary Langford</i>	
First AVS of Spartanburg, Woodruff, SC. ....	10.00
First AVS of Wichita Falls, TX, Wichita Falls, TX .....	12.00
<i>Special Project for BMF</i>	
Office Violets and Lunch (OVAL), Houston, TX. ....	10.00
Richmond AVS, Richmond, VA .....	75.00
The Verbeau AVC, Slagle, VA .....	25.00
Valley AVS, Harlingen, TX .....	20.00
Thomas O'Connell, Catonsville, MD. ....	5.00
Patricia Miklica, San Jose, CA. ....	2.00
Jean Milstead, Rensselaer, NY. ....	5.00
Martha Spyridon, Delray, FL. ....	10.00
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$199.00</b>

# Showcase

## *Guelph's Christmas*

*Hybridized & Exhibited by:*

**John Brownlie**

*Aca's Violet Tree*

*Large*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*

## *Frosted Whisper*

*Exhibited by: Tony Hulleman*

*Hybridized by: R. Scott*

*Large*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*

# Show/case

## *Ma's Midland Fantasy*

*Hybridized & Exhibited by:  
Olive Ma Robinson  
Standard*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*

## *Sansoucy' Coco*

*Grown by: Muriel Staley  
Hybridized by: P. Sansoucy  
Large*



*Photo Credit: Muriel Staley*

## Maximize Your Membership

by Carolee Carter  
Morgan Hill, California

After returning from the AVSA national convention in Washington D.C., I reflected upon some of the issues that were discussed in various meetings as well as with dinner table guests. It's no secret that membership is down. AVSA has lost 15% to 17% of its members in the past five years. Topics of conversations with affiliate members invariably steered to the loss of membership in their own clubs. Why is this happening, and how can we keep our current members and attract new ones?

I think it a lot of it has to do with how we are marketing ourselves. I've always loved working in a garden, and the initial reason I gravitated to growing African violets was that after working in a full-time, hectic work environment, I found that the only "garden" I had time for was in the evenings when it was too dark to go outside. Therefore, I created my African violet garden indoors. I now come home from work and de-stress for a half hour by going through my plants, taking off dead blossoms or leaves, checking for any signs of problems, or just generally admiring their beauty. If you think about it, this is a great drawing card! I'm sure there are many out there who could be enticed to grow America's favorite houseplant for the same reasons. So, why aren't we attracting these folks to join the AVSA-affiliated clubs?

I've been kidded through the years about my heavy involvement in the African violet clubs to which I belong. They assume that I get together with a "lot of little old ladies, while sipping tea and eating crumpets." Maybe this is part of the problem. Maybe we haven't identified our market.

If you believe that because your club is there (or "you've built the baseball field"), people should come, you're out of touch with the real world. You have to actively go after these people and entice them away from all the other available past-times. It's a selling job. You have to work hard at identifying and communicating with your market.

Your job is to first get them there; then you have to figure out a way to keep them. Here are a few suggestions to get you on the right track:

### Getting the Members to your Meetings

Publicity is key in getting your organization's name known to those likely candidates. Here are some tips to start you down this road:

1. **Publicize your meetings.** Do you publicize your monthly meetings in your local newspaper? Call the Garden Editor, or if they don't have one, the Features Editor to inquire how soon before your meeting would they need the information for their calendar. Then, prepare a simple announcement that includes the name of your club, the day and time the meeting will occur, and the topic of your workshop and/or program. Most likely, you will have to do this every month, but some newspapers will accept copy for a longer period of time. If there are smaller papers in your area, send them the copy as well. Post the

announcement on your library bulletin board and any other appropriate place you can think of.

2. **Your Show is your Drawing Card.** As part of the planning for a show, your publicity chairman should prepare a Press Release that includes information about the event (theme of your show), with times the public are invited, where the show will be, and what they will see when they get there. Examples of what they will see at the show may include: unusual varieties, small and large blossoms and solid, spotted, and striped blossoms. At the end of the release, include a "Who Are We?" paragraph that describes your club and when they meet. All of this information should be in an easy-to-read, uncluttered format. (A bullet format fills the bill quite nicely here.) Print it on colored paper so it will stand out from the dozens of other press releases the media receives. Then, scour your Yellow Pages to find addresses for all the newspapers and radio/television stations in your area and mail it in plenty of time (at least a month ahead of your show date).

Follow up by calling at least the major press and asking whether they would be willing to "play up" the story more instead of just running it as a listing on their weekly calendar. Tell them you would be happy to write a short article on the pleasures of growing African violets for your readers and would supply photographs for their use. This simple method has worked many times for me and has sometimes produced excellent results.

3. **Get Their Names and Addresses!** Assign members to be at the entrance of your show to request names and addresses from all attendees and begin to develop a mailing list of potentials. Send a postal card to these folks in the following year giving the show details and promising them a free leaf if they present the card at the sales table.
4. **Find Out What Pushes Their Buttons.** At your show ask those who seem interested in growing African violets what one thing would prevent them from attending your meeting? Develop a list of these reasons and discuss them with your membership. Perhaps it's because your meetings are always on a weekday at lunchtime. You might want to change your meeting to a weekend day if an evening meeting isn't an option for older members who are unable to drive at night. Maybe the meeting begins too early or too late. Or, maybe you might want to have TWO meetings to accommodate the needs of your members: one in the evening and another during the day. These are all quick fixes.
5. **Develop Promotional Material.** Ask a member of your club who works with computer programs to develop a tri-fold flyer of basic growing methods. Have a small section of the flyer devoted to information about your meetings, with directions on how to get there; provide a few e-mail addresses of your officers so that they can ask questions. Give these flyers to everyone who attends your show.
6. **May I give you my card?** Ask that same member to create business cards for your club. They're easy to do on

the computer now. Just a simple card that says something like "Need Help with your African Violets?" and then provides information about your meetings along with an e-mail contact address. Place the cards in a stand-up holder (you can make them out of cardboard) and ask your local garden centers that sell African violets whether they would mind keeping a few of these cards at their check-out counter. Post the cards at any other appropriate location you can think of. I keep a half-dozen in my wallet so if I'm at a garden center and spot anyone hovering at the African violet section, I can hand the person a card and tell them we're here to help. This is no hard sell, just a contact. Visibility is what you're after here.

7. **Discover Other Venues.** Where else can you make yourself known? Is there a state garden club? Join it. It will open up a whole new array of garden club contacts within your state. Many of these groups want to learn about a wide variety of plants. Are there botanical gardens in your area that offer classes? Suggest a workshop on African violets. Have you identified other non-horticulture clubs in your area that would love to have a program about how to grow African violets? What about your local community center? Adult education center? All of these venues are ripe for the picking. Set up displays at your local library. Ask your local interior decorator stores if they would like to have a show quality plant in their window along with their other decorative items, and make sure your business cards or flyers accompany them.

### ***Now That You've Nabbed Them, How do you Keep Them from Leaving?***

1. **Infuse your Meetings with excitement.** Have lots of hands-on programs that address the needs of not only the novice but also the experienced grower. Ask the experts in your club to conduct these sessions so that they can share the knowledge they've gained with those who know next to nothing. Construct your agenda so that the business part of your meeting comes *after* your workshop and program. If there are too many business issues to discuss, see how many of them your Executive Committee can handle beforehand.
2. **Keep Your Meetings on Track and on Time.** Make sure the President of your club keeps the business part of the meeting moving. If an issue provokes a heated discussion, limit the number of speakers, set a time limit, and call for a vote unless someone has something new to add to the discussion.
3. **Keep Bickering and Politics Out of Your Meetings!** I've seen too many potential members run for the doors to escape when "power trippers" try to assert themselves in meetings. This is not the kind of scene to set if you want potential members to return. Remember, the purpose of our getting together as an AVSA affiliate is to provide that convenient place to gather, stimulate interest in the propagation and culture of African violets, promote distribution of the varieties and species amongst our members and friends,

and publish reliable and practical information about the plants and AVSA. It's not a venue in which to assert our power. Be fair and considerate to everyone who walks through the door. Newbies want to hear about how to grow their plants, not complaints about some aspect of your business at hand.

4. **"But we've always done it this way."** Wow. Let's just dig the club's grave right now. This comment always gets to me. It's the plodding along, never trying out new ideas that will doom a club. Once you put a halt to pushing the envelope, then you defuse the enthusiasm of your membership. The "Old Guard" should be open to letting go of their "tried and true" ways. Let the creative juices flow!
5. **Share Your Secrets.** I just don't get it. What's up with the grower who consistently wins the top awards and guards with their lives their secrets on how they did it? One of the best ways to encourage members to remain in the club is to share all of your growing secrets with them. Why should someone be loath to divulge how they did it for fear that – God forbid – SOMEONE ELSE might win? This is childish behavior. If you are the only person winning all the time, then everyone else will just give up and not enter at all. Then where will you be? With no show at all, I'd venture to guess. If it's become so easy for you to produce consistent winners, then why not challenge YOURSELF by letting everyone else know your secrets. Then, see if you have any competition! In the end, you may discover that the fun has been really in the sharing, not in the winning.
6. **But I Don't Wanna!** Many new members have joined your club because they just want to learn how to keep grandma's violet alive, or they just want blooming plants in their house on the windowsill to admire. Too many club's "experienced" growers immediately set the stage for these newbies stressing that they must focus on "Growing for Show." Well, this would shoot even the least timid member out the door!

For some reason, affiliates have become obsessed with the idea that EVERY member MUST enter at least one plant in the show or – dare I say it – the club's overall show point score might suffer! While you should be striving for an achievement award, the focus should be on guiding your members to enter when they feel comfortable in doing so. Let them get hooked on their own. It will happen soon enough, I assure you. Most feel they have absolutely no chance of competing with the experienced members. That's why I suggest that you create "New Grower" (a grower who has never won a blue ribbon in either horticulture or design) and "Novice Grower" (a grower who has won a blue ribbon in horticulture or design) classes in your show schedule. It will ease them into the process in a less painful way.

Good luck in your quest for new members. It might take a fair amount of work in the beginning, but soon you'll be reaping the rewards of a whole new crop of enthusiastic African violet friends. It will make Anne Tinari proud!

# Showcase

## *Mister Socialite*

*Exhibited & Hybridized by:*

**Paul Sorano**

*Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses*

*Standard*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*

## *Saintpaulia Species*

### *Mather #21*

*Exhibited by: Bill Price*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*

# ***AVSA Judges, Affiliates & Commercial Members - 2002***

## **<sup>J</sup>AVSA Judges, <sup>x</sup>Senior Judges, <sup>M</sup>Master Judges, <sup>S</sup>Student Judges, <sup>T</sup>Teachers and <sup>ME</sup>Master Emeritus**

**(Editors Note:** If your name does not appear below, check to see if your dues and judges certificates are current.)

### **CANADA**

#### **ALBERTA**

- <sup>S</sup> Bell, Patricia, 3 Ash Crescent, St. Albert, T8N 3J6
- <sup>J</sup> Den Oudsten, Maida, 4424 35 Ave SW, Calgary, T3E 1B3
- <sup>J</sup> Douglas, Mrs. Florence M, 232 Southampton Dr SW, Calgary, T2W 0V7
- <sup>J</sup> Goretzky, Laurel D., 32 Scimitar Point NW, Calgary, T3L 2B2
- <sup>TX</sup> Goretzky, Winston J, 32 Scimitar Point NW, Calgary, T3L 2B2
- <sup>J</sup> Gratto, Mrs. M R, 4206 33rd St, Red Deer, T4N 0N2
- <sup>J</sup> Kosowan, Murna A, 4627 Verona Dr NW, Calgary, T3A 0P5
- <sup>S</sup> Laakso, Twyla, 4404 17th St SW, Calgary, T2T 4P8
- <sup>J</sup> Liberty, Gabriela, 196 Douglas Ridge Close SE, Calgary, T2Z 2P6
- <sup>S</sup> Lockwood, Linda, 7612- 180 St, Edmonton, T5T 2L1
- <sup>S</sup> Maloney, Cindy, 85 Charlton Crescent, Sherwood Park, T8H 1S2
- <sup>J</sup> Melnechuk, Jean, 332 Point McKay Gdns NW, Calgary, T3B 4V8
- <sup>S</sup> Moore, Lynn, 31 Douglas Shore Close SE, Calgary, T2Z 2K7
- <sup>J</sup> Pohl, LaRae, 7544 152 C Ave, Edmonton, T5C 3L3
- <sup>S</sup> Rankin, Gail, 13067-115 St, Edmonton, T5E 5G4
- <sup>J</sup> Rousseau, Elizabeth A, #30 10401 19 St SW, Calgary, T2W 3E7
- <sup>S</sup> Smythe, Reta, 6607 34th St SW, Calgary, T3E 5M3
- <sup>J</sup> Urano, Gwen A, 3620 - 58 Ave S W, Calgary, T3E 5H6
- <sup>S</sup> Wright, Chris, 3007 143 Ave, Edmonton, T5Y 1M9

#### **BRITISH COLUMBIA**

- <sup>S</sup> Price, Dr. William E H, 325 1200 Burrard St, Vancouver, V6Z 2C7

#### **NEW BRUNSWICK**

- <sup>x</sup> Bell, Jean, 38497 Rt 2, Long Creek, E4C 1J2
- <sup>x</sup> Belliveau, Eva, 10 Vista Dr, Moncton, E1A 4L5
- <sup>J</sup> Boyd, Sherin, 211 Charlotte St, Saint John, E2M 1Y2
- <sup>J</sup> Brooks, Susan A, 260 Douglas Ave, Saint John, E2K 1E6
- <sup>x</sup> Hughes, M Louise, 14 McArthur Ave, Moncton, E1C 3L8
- <sup>x</sup> Moffett, Anne, 80 Moffett Ave, Sussex, E4E 3Y1

#### **NOVA SCOTIA**

- <sup>J</sup> Beaver, Ina, 41 James Roy Dr, Porters Lake, B3E H9
- <sup>J</sup> Brown, Anne M, 2831 Doug Smith Dr, Halifax, B3L 3T6
- <sup>S</sup> Moir, Audrey, 1 Oak St Apt 202, Dartmouth, B3A 1Y7

### **ONTARIO**

- <sup>J</sup> Beeching, Vivian, 648 Hillman Cres, Mississauga, L4Y 2H9
- <sup>x</sup> Biljan, Angele, 5 Oakridge Blvd, Nepean, K2G 2T6
- <sup>M</sup> Brownlie, Doris M, 600 Silvercreek Blvd #80, Mississauga, L5A 2B4
- <sup>J</sup> Clarke, W E, 35 Solva Dr, Nepean, K2H 5R7
- <sup>J</sup> Conlin-Lane, Carolyn, 57 Hillbeck Cres, Scarborough, M1B 2M8
- <sup>S</sup> Cotton, Robin, 154 Kanata Dr, Po Box 173, Grafton, K0K 2G0
- <sup>J</sup> De Souza, Marina, 1369 Tyneburn Cr, Mississauga, L4X 1P6
- <sup>J</sup> Ellwood, Mrs. J D, 10 Doris Ave, Gloucester, K1T 3W8
- <sup>x</sup> Elston, Eleanor, 190 Julia Cres, Orillia, L3V 7W9
- <sup>TX</sup> Harriman, R F, 2395 Ogilvie Rd, Gloucester, K1J 7N4
- <sup>J</sup> Jago, P W, 16 Forestgrove Dr, Stitsville, K2S 1V2
- <sup>TM</sup> Lex, Sandra, 70 Enfield Ave, Toronto, M8W 1T9
- <sup>S</sup> Ley, Nancy G., 6819 Edenwood Dr, Mississauga, L5N 3X9
- <sup>J</sup> McCabe, Mr Robert, 769 Holt Crescent, Ottawa, K1G 2Y5
- <sup>J</sup> McPhail, Mrs. Rita, 6904 Bilbao Ln, Mississauga, L5N 1R2
- <sup>S</sup> Morgan, Sandra, 567 Avenue Road Unit 402, Toronto, M4V 2K1
- <sup>S</sup> Renaud, Mrs. Pat, 521 Des Conifers Crescent, Orleans, K4A 2Y7
- <sup>J</sup> Russell, Lorna, 17 Chinook Crest, Nepean, K2H 7C9
- <sup>S</sup> Sayers, Ivy, 2157 Fillmore Crescent, Gloucester, K1J 6A1
- <sup>J</sup> Toms, James C, 59 Merrygale Cres, Islington, M9B 5N9
- <sup>M</sup> Williams, Beverley, 3052 Grenville Dr, Mississauga, L5A 2P7
- <sup>J</sup> Yaremko, Daphne, 27 Palmer Circle, RR #2, Bolton, L7E 5R8

### **PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND**

- <sup>M</sup> Lewis, Hilda, 202 Spring Park Rd, Charlottetown, C1A 3Y9

### **QUEBEC**

- <sup>J</sup> Chayer, Jean-Paul, 875 Rang 9, St Ambroise, G7P 2A4
- <sup>M</sup> Durand, Greta, 21 Lakeshore Road #317, Pointe Claire, H9S 5N3
- <sup>J</sup> Gagnon, Denise, 269 Rue Senecal, Longueuil, J4G 1M8
- <sup>J</sup> Gagnon, Marie, 1571 Sabrevois, Beloeil, J3G 6A6
- <sup>x</sup> Henry, Irene, 349 Hyman Dr, Dol-Des-Ormea, H9B 1L5
- <sup>J</sup> Herbatuk, Anne, 2400 Auvergne, Duvernay Laval, H7E 1Z4
- <sup>S</sup> Lantin, Marie-Chantale, 257 Bonnad, Le Gardeur, J5Z 4M7
- <sup>J</sup> Lemieux, Lucienne, 2193 St Stanislas St, Jonquiere, G7S 2R2
- <sup>J</sup> Paradis, Michel, 2688 Oxford, Longueuil, J4L 2M6
- <sup>J</sup> Pilon, Francine, 56 Rue Matapedia Apt # 47, Gatineau, J8T 6E5

- <sup>S</sup> Ratelle, Eric, 88 Des Epinettes, St Luc, J2W 1L4
- <sup>J</sup> Santopietro, Mario, 7020 Lacordaire, St Leonard, H1S 2A4
- <sup>J</sup> Simard, Annie, 537 Iberville, Mont St Hilaire, J3H 4G9
- <sup>S</sup> Veilleux, Sylvie, 88 Rue Des Epinettes, Saint-Luc, J2W 1L4

## ENGLAND

- <sup>J</sup> Goodship-Patience, Gwen, 33 Common Rd, Langley, Slough, Berkshire, SL3 8JZ

## JAPAN

- <sup>J</sup> Horikoshi, Kazuo, 2-39-9 Higashioozumi Nerimaku, Tokyo, 178-0063

## REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

- <sup>TM</sup> Halford, Joan, PTE Bag X 370, Menlynn 0063

## UNITED STATES

### ALABAMA

- <sup>TM</sup> Breckenridge, Mrs. J M, 1042 19th Ave S, Birmingham, 35205-6458
- <sup>X</sup> Ferguson, Donald, 5831 Oakwild Dr, Montgomery, 36117-2919
- <sup>TM</sup> Lockhart, Mrs. Roy, 5271 Caldwell Mill Rd, Birmingham, 35242-4512
- <sup>X</sup> Moseley, Mary H, 710 Duval Dr, Montgomery, 36109-3802
- <sup>TM</sup> Phythyon, Peg, 852 Haggerty Rd, Wetumpka, 36093-3316
- <sup>M</sup> Sisler, Mrs. Orland O, 2833 Ashley Ave, Montgomery, 36109-2017
- <sup>M</sup> Strock, Barbara, 1681 Al Highway 143, Elmore, 36025-1520

### ARIZONA

- <sup>S</sup> Autret, Kathy, 5740 N Paseo Niquel, Tucson, 85718-3924
- <sup>S</sup> Baker, Lucinda, 9796 N Golden Sun Dr, Oro Valley, 85737-7928
- <sup>S</sup> Dixon, Joan, 2950 N Camino de Oeste, Tucson, 85745-9202
- <sup>J</sup> Fuller, Barbara, 409 S Kenyon Dr, Tucson, 85710-1043
- <sup>S</sup> Hopkins, Esther, 2070 N Camino Agrios, Tucson, 85715-5907
- <sup>J</sup> Jolivet, Georgette, 333 W Brown Rd Apt 10, Mesa, 85201-3583
- <sup>TX</sup> Loomis, Ruth, 603 N San Francisco St, Flagstaff, 86001-3230
- <sup>J</sup> Merski, Susan, 2511 N Desert Ave, Tucson, 85712-2403
- <sup>S</sup> Morris, Doris, 7731 E Linden St, Tucson, 85715-4528
- <sup>S</sup> Wyckoff, Jayne R, 11515 N 91st St Unit 167, Scottsdale, 85260-8644

### ARKANSAS

- <sup>J</sup> Dye, Barbara, 1080 Matt Ln, Hensley, 72065-9721
- <sup>S</sup> Ferguson, Betty W., 19009 Oaklawn Cv, Little Rock, 72206-9056
- <sup>J</sup> Tidwell, Danny, PO Box 326, Mc Rae, 72102-0326
- <sup>J</sup> Walker, Martha, 619 Edinburgh Ct, Jacksonville, 72076-3435
- <sup>X</sup> Walsh, Peggy, 9 Yocum Rd, Rogers, 72756-9245

### CALIFORNIA

- <sup>X</sup> Allustiarti, Evelyn, 1812 El Verano Way, Belmont, 94002-3631
- <sup>TM</sup> Beck, Gary R, 1155 Pine St Apt 4, San Francisco, 94109-5144
- <sup>J</sup> Boddy, Patsy, 2232 Maxine Way, Rancho Cordova, 95670-2019
- <sup>J</sup> Borck, Byron, 1425 Ditty Ave, Santa Rosa, 95403-2632
- <sup>J</sup> Borck, Heath, 1425 Ditty Ave, Santa Rosa, 95403-2632

- <sup>J</sup> Borck, Heather, 1425 Ditty Ave, Santa Rosa, 95403-2632
- <sup>J</sup> Carter, Carolee, 183 del Monte Ln, Morgan Hill, 95037-3541
- <sup>X</sup> Cornibe, Cathy, 197 Archer Dr, Santa Cruz, 95060-2442
- <sup>J</sup> Cox, Leslie, 208 Maynard Ave, Newbury Park, 91320-4264
- <sup>J</sup> Eisenhut, Jacque, 22800 Eriel Ave, Torrance, 90505-3011
- <sup>TX</sup> Elkin, Barbara Jane, 2855 Gayle Ln, Auburn, 95602-9674
- <sup>J</sup> Fallaw, June, 213 Callistoga Dr, Pittsburg, 94565-5207
- <sup>S</sup> Frederick, Kristina K., 29 Lindbergh St, San Mateo, 94401-2014
- <sup>J</sup> Grafelmann, Fred, 1447 32nd Ave, San Francisco, 94122-3136
- <sup>S</sup> Grant, Marcha, 1601 N Sepulveda Blvd # 153, Manhattan Beach, 90266-5133
- <sup>J</sup> Gregory, Mary, 5116 W 137th Pl, Hawthorne, 90250-6539
- <sup>X</sup> Inplijn, Hans, 5412 Via Carrizo, Laguna Woods, 92653-3092
- <sup>TM</sup> Jantzen, Anne, 4001 Via Cristobal, Campbell, 95008-2759
- <sup>X</sup> Keating, Iris L, 149 W Loretto Ct, Claremont, 91711-1739
- <sup>TM</sup> King, Frances C, 3327 28th St, San Diego, 92104-4524
- <sup>X</sup> Kosowsky, Dorothy, 712 Cunningham Dr, Whittier, 90601-1016
- <sup>J</sup> Lawson, Floyd L, 1100 W Huntington Dr Apt 21, Arcadia, 91007-6302
- <sup>J</sup> Lombard, Lynn, 790 Ridgecrest Dr, Colfax, 95713-9218
- <sup>X</sup> McCanne, Gini, 1420 Oxford Ave, Claremont, 91711-3461
- <sup>TM</sup> McCoy, Ruth Jo, 144 F St # 49, C/O Royal Oaks Conv Hospital, Galt, 95632-1833
- <sup>J</sup> Miller, Diane, 7056 E Country Club Ln, Anaheim 92807-4414
- <sup>X</sup> Naylor, Florence, 478 Arcade Dr, Ventura, 93003-4502
- <sup>X</sup> Parker, Vera, 214 W Mayfair Ave, Stockton, 95207-5109
- <sup>S</sup> Pos, Harriette, 12 Kelton Ct, San Mateo, 94403-4370
- <sup>S</sup> Pratt, Olive I., 25010 Tulip Ave, Loma Linda, 92354-3446
- <sup>J</sup> Re, Leonard, 9144 Helm Ave, Fountain Valley, 92708-4435
- <sup>S</sup> Rizzi, John, 360 Bohemian Hwy, Freestone, 95472-9578
- <sup>X</sup> Roberson, Betty S, 2848 Andover Ave, Carlsbad, 92008-7002
- <sup>J</sup> Seaton, Robert P, 864 Milton Ave, Ventura, 93003-4917
- <sup>X</sup> Shaver, Marcia L, 1187 Buckingham Dr, Thousand Oaks, 91360-5204
- <sup>X</sup> Shipley, Jean, 3238 Preble Ave, Ventura, 93003-4808
- <sup>J</sup> Stringer, Adrienne, 27746 Spandau Dr, Santa Clarita 91350-3664
- <sup>X</sup> Thomas, Irene, 1199 Lyons St, Redwood City, 94061-2262
- <sup>X</sup> Wang, Ann, 120 S 4th St, Santa Paula, 93060-2605
- <sup>X</sup> Weaver, Doris R, 3940 Alvarado Ave, Stockton, 95204-2303
- <sup>S</sup> Woolfe, Charmion, 1715 Valley View Ave, Belmont, 94002-1939

### COLORADO

- <sup>J</sup> Hann, Mrs. Richard C, 3338 S Glencoe St, Denver, 80222-7520
- <sup>J</sup> Levine, Nelly, 8797 Iris St, Arvada, 80005-1233
- <sup>S</sup> Long, Karl, 645 Labor St, Delta, 81416-2933
- <sup>J</sup> Miller, Jean Marie, 6661 Upham Dr, Arvada, 80003-3943
- <sup>X</sup> Mitchell, Shirley, 2200 Stanford Rd, Fort Collins, 80525-1415
- <sup>S</sup> Niece, Elaine, 18383 E Union Dr, Aurora, 80015-3233
- <sup>X</sup> Olander, Martha, 3333 E Florida Ave Apt 21, Denver, 80210-2541
- <sup>X</sup> Otto, Norah E, 33 Frontier Ln, Magnolia Star Route, Nederland, 80466-9626
- <sup>TX</sup> Ratte, Frances, PO Box 382, Black Hawk, 80422-0382
- <sup>M</sup> Schaezel, Margaret T, 2451 S Jasmine Pl, Denver, 80222-6229
- <sup>X</sup> Sorensen, Janice, 8357 E Jamison Cir S, Englewood, 80112-2751



- <sup>J</sup> Tracy, Parker E, 620 S 41st St, Boulder, 80305-5915
- <sup>J</sup> Weber, Harry, 3003 Spring Mountain Dr, Loveland, 80537-7428
- <sup>J</sup> Weber, Linda, 3003 Spring Mountain Dr, Loveland, 80537-7428

## CONNECTICUT

- <sup>J</sup> Bower, Richard C, 239 Fort Path Rd, Madison, 06443-2216
- <sup>X</sup> Butler, Ann W, 8 Buell St, North Haven, 06473-4309
- <sup>J</sup> Fargeot, Marge, 235 Alps Rd, Branford, 06405-4745
- <sup>TM</sup> Hayes, Nancy G, 9 Cobblestone Rd, Bloomfield, 06002-3003
- <sup>J</sup> Hiltz, Vivian C, 155 Summit Wood Dr, Kensington, 06037-3941
- <sup>X</sup> Kilpatrick, Marcia G., 139 Kenyon Rd, Hampton, 06247-1112
- <sup>X</sup> Rourke, Edna, 99 Old Stratford Rd, Shelton, 06484-6129
- <sup>J</sup> Taub, Sylvia B, 141 E View Dr, Windsor, 06095-1829
- <sup>X</sup> Wallach, Lynn, 55 Red Coat Rd, Westport, 06880-1414
- <sup>X</sup> Wheeler, Roger W, PO Box 263, Shelton, 06484-0263

## DELAWARE

- <sup>X</sup> Abramson, Diane, 4003 Greenmount Rd, Wilmington, 19810-3303
- <sup>X</sup> Behnke, Mrs. Wallace P, 1735 Old Baltimore Pike, Newark, 19702-2027
- <sup>TM</sup> Callaghan, Carol, 2806 Rickdale Rd, Wilmington, 19810-3434
- <sup>X</sup> Celano, Angeline, 4927 Lancaster Pike, Sedgely Farms, Wilmington, 19807-2550
- <sup>X</sup> Celano, Theresa, 1703 N Bancroft Pkwy, Wilmington, 19806-2433

## FLORIDA

- <sup>J</sup> Bannister, Ronald L, 695 Bear Creek Ct, Winter Springs, 32708-3646
- <sup>X</sup> Boyer, James R, 1200 Howell Branch Rd, Winter Park, 32789-1008
- <sup>J</sup> Collier, Christel, 1203 Greenview Dr, Lakeland, 33805-4715
- <sup>S</sup> Giles, Lois W, 14900 Lake Olive Dr, Fort Myers, 33919-8335
- <sup>TM</sup> Green, Bob, 997 Botany Ln, Rockledge, 32955-3913
- <sup>J</sup> Howland, Sharon, 5542 Bradley St, Pensacola, 32526-9434
- <sup>J</sup> Jank, Stephen P, 197 Wood Hall Dr, Mulberry, 33860-8522
- <sup>TM</sup> Johnson, Mrs. H Steven, 1105 Clubside Dr, Longwood, 32779-6203
- <sup>X</sup> Kellum, Jennifer S, 15831 SW 54th Pl, Davie, 33331-3376
- <sup>J</sup> Kurtz, Jan, 136 Windsor Pl, Gulf Breeze, 32561-4446
- <sup>J</sup> Madison, Margaret Jean, 3013 La Mirage Dr, Lauderhill, 33319-4266
- <sup>X</sup> Martinez, Jo Anne, 809 Taray de Avila, Tampa, 33613-1048
- <sup>X</sup> Menish, Wilhelmine, 121 Brentshire Dr, Brandon, 33511-4815
- <sup>X</sup> Merritt, Louise, 4200 Croydon Rd, Pensacola, 32514-6814
- <sup>J</sup> Mink, Janis, 430 E Dayton Cir, Fort Lauderdale, 33312-1917
- <sup>S</sup> O'Connor, Mary Alice, 32 Maui Cir, Naples, 34112-3724
- <sup>S</sup> Patton, Kelly, 7418 Willow Wisp Dr E, Lakeland, 33810-4412
- <sup>TX</sup> Promersberger, Beverly, 7992 Otis Way, Pensacola, 32506-8387
- <sup>S</sup> Rohan, Joy, 3847 NW 31st Pl, Gainesville, 32606-6162
- <sup>X</sup> Ross, Jean Marie, 114 Reflection Blvd, Auburndale, 33823-9656
- <sup>X</sup> Schwindt, Patti, 1625 S Delaney Ave, Orlando, 32806-3054
- <sup>J</sup> Scott, Lillian, 1917 SE 32nd St, Cape Coral, 33904-4092
- <sup>J</sup> Shelton, Glenn, 7142 62nd Ave, Pinellas Park, 33781-4831
- <sup>TM</sup> Smith, James H, 1449 Paloma Ln, Dunedin, 34698-4317
- <sup>X</sup> Sprayberry, Lois R, 840 Linton Ave, Orlando, 32809-6462

- <sup>S</sup> Stilson, Sharon, 414 Hyacinth Dr Apt 103, Pensacola, 32506-7907
- <sup>M</sup> Whitaker, DoDe, 2085 Leeward Ln, Merritt Island, 32953-3062

## GEORGIA

- <sup>M</sup> Lewis, Betty, 935 Ridgedale Dr, Lawrenceville, 30043-3228
- <sup>X</sup> Moffatt, Helen, 4183 Quinn Dr, Evans, 30809-4819
- <sup>S</sup> Norton, Janice E., 120 Old Mount Zion Rd, Oxford, 30054-4029
- <sup>S</sup> Norton, Jerry H., 120 Old Mount Zion Rd, Oxford, 30054-4029
- <sup>J</sup> Red Horse, Kay, PO Box 81, Chickamauga, 30707-0081

## ILLINOIS

- <sup>J</sup> Allegretti, Carol, 213 Westgate St, Woodstock, 60098-7856
- <sup>J</sup> Boyd, Carol, 303 S Stewart St, Geneseo, 61254-1425
- <sup>X</sup> Goodsell, Barbara, 429 Cherry Ln, Glenview, 60025-4576
- <sup>J</sup> Harms, P, 2133 Crawford Ave, Evanston, 60201-1870
- <sup>J</sup> Jarnowski, Frances, 182 Old Sutton Rd, Barrington, 60010-9366
- <sup>J</sup> Jugenheimer, John, 14 Hickory Hls, Geneseo, 61254-9000
- <sup>M</sup> Landgren, Anna Jean, 20 Calvin Cir, Evanston, 60201-1911
- <sup>J</sup> Lavine, Alma, 119 N Stewart St, Geneseo, 61254-1311
- <sup>TM</sup> Schroeder, Mildred, 1020 N Harlem Ave Apt 4F, River Forest, 60305-1519
- <sup>J</sup> Simmons, Morgan, 2210 Hartzell St, Evanston, 60201-1424

## INDIANA

- <sup>J</sup> Mikita, Gary S, 2842 Brown St, Portage, 46368-3918
- <sup>S</sup> Smith, Dr Jeffrey, 3014 W Amherst Rd, Muncie, 47304-3211

## IOWA

- <sup>S</sup> Christenson, LuAnn, 2501 E 28th Ct, Davenport, 52803-2101
- <sup>TM</sup> Jones, Jacquetta, 607 14th Ave # 34, Durant, 52747-9733
- <sup>J</sup> Mathews, Kathy, 1562 Highway 117 N, Colfax, 50054-7529
- <sup>J</sup> Pershing, Barbara, 8134 Buck Rdg, Cedar Falls, 50613-9412
- <sup>S</sup> Poole, Shirley, 11 Vista Ct, Davenport, 52806-4334
- <sup>X</sup> Schaefer, Celia, 3830 Woodland Ct, Davenport, 52807-1510
- <sup>X</sup> Thompson, Catherine R, 2309 Iowa St, Cedar Falls, 50613-3847
- <sup>X</sup> Tyler, Janice K, 1461 Norske Rd, Decorah, 52101-7366
- <sup>X</sup> Watts, Joan M, 620 Ray St, Colo, 50056-1031

## KANSAS

- <sup>X</sup> McCurnin, Grace R, 6812 Reeds Rd, Overland Park, 66204-1539
- <sup>M</sup> Montgomery, Isla, 820 Kansas, Downs, 67437-1442
- <sup>X</sup> Richards, Pat, 15105 S Seminole Dr, Olathe, 66062-3004
- <sup>J</sup> Russell, Raymond L, 807 W 27th Ter, Lawrence, 66046-4617
- <sup>J</sup> Smith, Mary A, 2034 S Park Rdg, Wichita, 67209-3279
- <sup>S</sup> Toney, Jimmie G., 102 N Chisholm St, Caldwell, 67022-1524

## LOUISIANA

- <sup>X</sup> Armstrong, Al, 1313 Gardenia Dr, Metairie, 70005-1152
- <sup>X</sup> Armstrong, Genelle, 1313 Gardenia Dr, Metairie, 70005-1152
- <sup>X</sup> Barlow, Sallie, 30418 Fairway View Dr, Denham Springs, 70726-7704
- <sup>M</sup> Benge, Dorothy L, 5900 Wheeler Dr, Metairie, 70003-1037
- <sup>J</sup> David, Nancy, 110 Saint Jude St, New Roads, 70760-3720
- <sup>X</sup> Dazet, Celia, PO Box 625, Empire, 70050-0625
- <sup>J</sup> Dyson, Martha, 5021 Bayou Black Dr, Gibson, 70356-3318

- J Godeny, Elmer K, 7004 Government St, Baton Rouge, 70806-6237
- X McFarland, Mary T, 745 Parlange Dr, Baton Rouge, 70806-1844
- J Nugent, Flora, 7933 Timmons Trl, Shreveport, 71107-9456
- J Ramirez, George, 1620 Willow Bend Dr, Morgan City, 70380-1552
- S Smith, Frances, 256 Lobdell Ave, Baton Rouge, 70806-4612
- J Truax, Robert E, 408 Hearthstone Dr, Baton Rouge, 70806-5007

### MARYLAND

- TM Burns, Marie, 8624 Delegge Rd, Baltimore, 21237-2107
- X Gordon, R Gary, 120 Brinkwood Rd, Brookeville, 20833-2307
- X Haag, Janet, 524 Murdock Rd, Baltimore, 21212-2020
- M Lages, Betty Lou, 3609 Font Hill Dr, Ellicott City, 21042-4911
- M Sauter, Beatrice, 1 Silktree Ct, Catonsville, 21228-5867
- X Toolan, Sharon, 3903 Nemo Rd, Randallstown, 21133-4007

### MASSACHUSETTS

- X Clark, Robert A, 118 Byron Ave, Lawrence, 01841-4444
- J Couture, Paula, 50 Canal St, Medford, 02155-3642
- J Eaton, Peggy, 12 Matchett St, Brighton, 02135-1505
- S Flynn-Fierke, Anne Marie, 10 Wildlife Dr, Hopkinton, 01748-2649
- S Hess, Carol, 7 Gibbs St, Framingham, 01701-4515
- J Ressa, Suzanne, 8 Ashwood Ter # 1, Roslindale, 02131-3622
- J Salatino, Cheryl, 14 Maple Ave, Sudbury, 01776-3441

### MICHIGAN

- J Leppard, Christine D, 1884 Mill Pond Dr, Oxford, 48371-6035

### MINNESOTA

- J Aurandt, Robert, 2144 Sloan St, Saint Paul, 55117-2029
- X Bann, Ruth, 680 Marigold Ter NE, Fridley, 55432-5641
- X Graf, Gail, 9207 4th Ave S, Bloomington, 55420-3721
- X Graf, James S, 9207 4th Ave S, Bloomington, 55420-3721
- X Harrington, Dolores, 1620 Gardena Ave NE, Fridley, 55432-5818
- TX Johnson, Retha N, 5105 W 62nd St, Edina, 55436-2619
- TX Johnson, Sharon E, 6657 E Shadow Lake Dr, Circle Pines, 55014-1350
- X Lahti, Kathy, 4157 Oliver Ave NW, Annandale, 55302-3614
- J Officer, Sandy, 8920 Southwood Dr, Bloomington, 55437-1744
- X Paron, Delores, 940 21st Pine Ln, Cambridge, 55008-2353
- J Podany, Gail, 5256 Beachside Dr, Minnetonka, 55343-4322
- J Semrau, Carol, 2912 9th Ave, Anoka, 55303-1822
- X Trapp, Palma, 1 Indian Hills Dr, Circle Pines, 55014-4503
- J Werness, Barbara H., 13055 Shenandoah Blvd NW, Coon Rapids, 55448-7034

### MISSISSIPPI

- J Brasfield, Brenda M, 6210 Spring Creek Dr, Olive Branch, 38654-9360
- ME Wicht, Jane, 203 Broad St, Hattiesburg, 39401-3604

### MISSOURI

- J Amelung, Nancy, 9708 Greenwood Ter, Saint Louis, 63119-1304
- J Anderson, Dorothy, 1016 Maplewood Dr, Columbia, 65203-1856

- S Barttrum, June, 18109 Hanthorne Dr, Independence, 64057-1534
- X Blanton, Helen, 622 Riverside Dr, Saint Charles, 63304-7945
- M Britton, James L, 3906 SW Harbor Dr, Lees Summit, 64082-4633
- X Burr, Carolyn E, 910 Almond Hill Ct, Manchester, 63021-7004
- J Buttram, J David, PO Box 193, Independence, 64051-0193
- J Campbell, Ethel M, 5350 E Farm Road 168, Rogersville, 65742-8424
- X Carson, Doris F, 2555 E 11th St, Joplin, 64801-5378
- X Donnell, Ramona, PO Box 959, Carl Junction, 64834-0959
- J Dunlap, Gary N, 4189 Jarvis Rd, Hillsboro, 63050-2708
- J Dunlap, Pat, 4189 Jarvis Rd, Hillsboro, 63050-2708
- X Eaklor, Lavera I, 5724 Oleatha Ave, Saint Louis, 63139-1903
- X Evensen, Marilyn, 532 Kingridge Dr, Ballwin, 63011-2748
- S Fox, Julie, 9535 N Conant Ave, Platte City, 64079-9144
- S Golubski, Linda, 1416 NW A St, Blue Springs, 64015-3605
- J Hamilton, Virginia, 7 Carole Ln, Saint Louis, 63131-2539
- M Hamtil, Marion A., 27 Brook Ln, Saint Charles, 63304-8118
- X Hapner, Susan, 35 Ridge Point Dr, Chesterfield, 63017-2718
- M Hart, Patricia M, 3350 Blue Ridge Blvd, Independence, 64052-1068
- M Hill, Sue I, 12201 E 45th Ter S, Independence, 64055-5801
- S Howitt, Stephanie, 1101 Skyline Dr, Grandview, 64030-1713
- J Loveland, Marsha D, 11303 S Alley Jackson Rd, Grain Valley, 64029-9506
- X Miller, Ardath L, 529 Ranch Dr, Manchester, 63011-3948
- J Moerer, Nancy, 413 NE 114th Ter, Kansas City, 64155-1231
- J Payne, Peggy R, 108 S Elizabeth St, Hallsville, 65255-9429
- X Russom, Fran, 7022 Ethel Ave, Saint Louis, 63117-9119
- J Schaaf, Marian R, 19000 E 19th Ter Ct N, Independence, 64058-1260
- M Willets, Nancy D, 6115A Pershing Ave, Saint Louis, 63112-1107
- X Wolverton, Wilma J, 8505 S Karr Rd, Grain Valley, 64029-9122

### NEBRASKA

- J Ahlman, Shannon, 819 Diers Ave Ste 8, Grand Island, 68803-4957
- S Ohme, B.J., 1136 A St # 3, Lincoln, 68502-1236
- X Stork, Joyce, 2501 E 23rd Ave S, Fremont, 68025-2478
- X Stork, Kent, 2501 E 23rd Ave S, Fremont, 68025-2478

### NEVADA

- J Thran, Diana, 1155 Rosemary Ct, Sparks, 89434-2558
- J Margetts, Betty, 9038 Hunting Arrow St, Las Vegas, 89123

### NEW HAMPSHIRE

- J DiMambro, Lisa, 182 Old Chester Tpke, Chester, 03036-4016

### NEW JERSEY

- J Armao, Susan E, 340 Glenwood Ave, Burlington, 08016-2513
- J Borey, Mrs. Paul E, 251 Vista View Dr, Mahwah, 07430-3431
- J Brown, Laurel W, 139 Evergreen Dr, Willingboro, 08046-2446
- M Buschke, Mrs. Edward W, 11 Drumlin Dr, Morris Plains, 07950-2718
- J Church, Barbara, 103 Stratford Rd, Dumont, 07628-1142
- J Cichocki, Karyn, 79 Beaver Run Rd, Lafayette, 07848-3112
- J De Simon, Joseph, 749 Park Ave, Oradell, 07649-2009
- X Fischer, Jill G, 59 River Bend Rd, Berkeley Heights, 07922-1812
- J Friedman, Florence, 181 Elm St, Tenafly, 07670-3032
- J Hill, Fred, 88 Horseshoe Ln S, Columbus, 08022-1062

x Jasaitis, Dale K, 72 Old York Rd, Bordentown, 08505-2912  
 j Kurzynski, Robert, 270 Washington Ave, Clifton, 07011-3122  
 x Murasko, Janice, 95 Connolly Dr, Milltown, 08850-2103  
 m Riemer, Janet, 256 Pennington Harborton Rd, Pennington, 08534-4007  
 j Senna, Frank, 13 Harvard Way, Oakland, 07436-3501

## NEW MEXICO

j Bowden, Jo Ellen, 407 La Veta Dr NE, Albuquerque, 87108-1401  
 s Chase, Debra, 5001 Basin St NE, Albuquerque, 87111-2715  
 j Garrison, Agatha, 331 County Road A027, Estancia, 87016-8033  
 j Iskra, Calista, 4700 Sherwood St NE, Albuquerque, 87109-2820  
 j Schmierer, Margaret, 5010 Crownpoint Ct NW, Albuquerque, 87120-1113  
 j Tallant, Joy, 4305 Cobblestone Pl NE, Albuquerque, 87109-2909

## NEW YORK

s Baisley, Laurie, 532 Grand Ave Apt 5, Newburgh, 12550-1932  
 x Banchik, Lillian H, PO Box 222125, Great Neck, 11022-2125  
 j Barthel, Frank, 102 Melvin Dr, Syracuse, 13212-4219  
 m Bradford, Edward, 8525 86th St, Woodhaven, 11421-1203  
 x Burdick, Doug, 55 Rosemount St, Rochester, 14620-4205  
 j Burrell, Carol Ann, 135 Sunrise Hill Rd, Fishkill, 12524-2446  
 j Burrell, Stephen, 135 Sunrise Hill Rd, Fishkill, 12524-2446  
 j Califano, Margaret A, 4 Skyline Dr, Latham, 12110-5222  
 m Champion, Ethel W., 8848 Van Hoesen Rd, Clay, 13041-9604  
 s Dillenbeck, Heidi A., 417 Cora St, Schenectady, 12306-4138  
 j Ellison, Barbara Whiting, 258 Shanty Creek Rd, Central Square, 13036-3416  
 s Festenstein, Barbara, 109 Winslow Ave, Rochester, 14620-3409  
 j Fraley, Susan J, 8 Vine St, Albany, 12203-2918  
 x Gugliada, Leonore, 16 Meeker St, Staten Island, 10306-1232  
 j Heinrich, Marilyn, 7 Ellsworth Pl, East Northport, 11731-5723  
 x Klein, Carolyn, 102-39 85th Rd, Richmond Hill, 11418-1107  
 j Kot, Monica L, 8184 Eileen Ave, Cicero, 13039-5664  
 tx Kroll, Paul F, 4325 Two Rod Rd, Harmony Hill Farm, East Aurora, 14052-9693  
 j Leary, Michael, 32 West Ave Apt 2, Fairport, 14450-2102  
 j Leary, Sharon, 32 West Ave Apt 2, Fairport, 14450-2102  
 j Lohan, Diane, 499 Keith Ln, West Islip, 11795-3433  
 x Macaluso, Rosemary, 4016 247th St, Little Neck, 11363-1637  
 x McDonald, Paula, 250 W 85th St Apt 8A, New York, 10024-3217  
 s Meyer, Alvin, 1315 King Rd Lot 19, Clifton Springs, 14432-9752  
 j Montgomery, Eileen, 248 Marilyn St, East Islip, 11730-3306  
 j Moore, Penny, 2336 Turner Rd, Weedsport, 13166-8514  
 j Niemira, Judith A., 12 Dappled Dr, East Amherst, 14051-4203  
 x Packer, Fred, 20 Mafalda Dr, Buffalo, 14215-2018  
 j Pappas, Jean, 434 Briarwood Rd, Massapequa, 11758-2209  
 j Perrotti, Barbara D, 5 Downing Ave, Newburgh, 12550-1923  
 tm Rotando, Kathryn, 131 Taft Ave, Long Beach, 11561-3831  
 tm Rutmayer, Mrs Kenneth, 109 Curtis Dr, Sound Beach, 11789-2254  
 j Ryan, Mary, 6394 N Huron Rd, Wolcott, 14590-9306  
 x Schirtzer, Claire J, 158 W Hudson St, Long Beach, 11561-1925  
 j Svitak, Joseph, 8551 169th St # 51, Jamaica, 11432-2629

j Thompson, Peter, 212 Locksley Rd, Syracuse, 13224-1827  
 j Vogt, Dorothy, 180 Waco St, Lindenhurst, 11757-5338  
 x Wagman, Fayanne B, 52 Harper Dr, Pittsford, 14534-3104  
 x Wagman, Irwin, 52 Harper Dr, Pittsford, 14534-3104  
 m Weber, Jane, 50 Belknap Dr, Northport, 11768-3402  
 j Yager, Robin, 3643 Pine Rd, Blossvale, 13308-1912  
 j Yager, William, 3643 Pine Rd, Blossvale, 13308-1912

## NORTH CAROLINA

j Abplanalp, Linda, 3134 Truitt Dr, Burlington, 27215-4660  
 x Bunn, Kermit M, 2234 Shine Rd, Snow Hill, 28580-8113  
 x Bunn, Lorena, 2234 Shine Rd, Snow Hill, 28580-8113  
 j Glembocki, Elizabeth, 4821 Jessie Dr, Apex, 27502-8858  
 j McElwain, Lauretta, 761 Hinton Creek Rd, Ellenboro, 28040-7742  
 s Taswell-Miller, Barbara D, 2416 Lemuel Dr, Raleigh, 27615-8405  
 s Wdowiak, Felicia, 1500 Duke University Rd, Apt A1B, Durham, 27701-2924  
 s Whitesides, Elizabeth, 12317 Harcourt Dr, Raleigh, 27613-5605

## OHIO

j Allison, Susan, 4356 Hoover Rd, Grove City, 43123-3619  
 x Bartley, Betty L, 3920 Monterey Ave, Springfield, 45504-3513  
 j Beaty, Janice, 900 Kenwyn Ct, Columbus, 43220-4160  
 s Bell, Martha, 5974 Boston Rd, Valley City, 44280-9339  
 x Borton, Florence L., 4864 US Route 68 N, Yellow Springs, 45387-8759  
 s Brown, Joanne, 4403 Jeff Ct, Cincinnati, 45241-3608  
 s Carr, Nancy, 107 Canterbury Ln SW, Reynoldsburg, 43068-3204  
 s Everling, Mary, 5290 Marshall Rd, Dayton, 45429-5816  
 j Hancock, Pat, PO Box 8085, West Chester, 45069-8085  
 x Jones, Shirley, 3769 W State Route 185, Piqua, 45356-9324  
 s Lorence, Tracy, 3786 Williams Dr, Brunswick, 44212-2650  
 j Morabito, Gertrude, 7057 Brightwood Dr, Painesville, 44077-2117  
 m Neumann, Linda A, 11620 Maplelridge Dr, North Royalton, 44133-2904  
 s Newill, Margaret, 10245 Virginia Lee Dr, Dayton, 45458-4424  
 tx Owens, Linda, 1762 Stearnwood Dr, Columbus, 43228-9716  
 tm Savage, Emilie B, 369 Mead Dr, Chillicothe, 45601-7377  
 s Shepard, Carol H, 169 Westwind Dr, Avon Lake, 44012-2406  
 j Stotler, Terena, 1027 State Route 589, Sidney, 45365-8783

## OKLAHOMA

s Carter, John T., 1825 W Lincoln St, Broken Arrow, 74012-8509  
 x Carter, Judith M., 1825 W Lincoln St, Broken Arrow, 74012-8509  
 s Corley, Jo Ellen, 218 E Chestnut St, Coweta, 74429-2518  
 x Cotten, Jeanne M, 4402 E 105th Pl, Tulsa, 74137-6223  
 s Hildinger, Fern, 408 Parkwood Dr, Wagoner, 74467-3538  
 j Hill, Mary E, 1115 S 129th East Ave, Tulsa, 74108-3901  
 tm Howlett, Rose, 4916 E 38th Pl, Tulsa, 74135-5529  
 s Johnson, Donna, 15907 E 110th St N, Owasso, 74055-6030  
 s Lumpkin, Shirley F, PO Box 686, Coweta, 74429-0686  
 x McCawley, Edna R, 1721 S Fulton Ave, Tulsa, 74112-6929  
 tx Sutton, Pat, 1707 S 77th East Ave, Tulsa, 74112-7817  
 s Taylor, Mrs. C D, 5916 E 28th St, Tulsa, 74114-6402

## PENNSYLVANIA

- Barnett, Rodney J, 508 W Broadway, Red Lion, 17356-1910  
 Boyd-Walther, Nan, 100 Bethel Rd, Glen Mills, 19342-1514  
 Branson, Betsy, 712 Bethlehem Pike, Flourtown, 19031-1302  
 Branson, Enid, 645 Meadowbrook Ave, Ambler, 19002-4919  
 Callahan, Betty, 6 Pennsylvania Ave, Fairless Hills, 19030-1318  
 Corse, Nancy R, 222 Ridgewood Rd, Media, 19063-1724  
 Criswell, Judi, 1105 Darby Rd, Havertown, 19083-3806  
 Gershon, Marianne, 849 Lauren Ln, Hatfield, 19440-3269  
 Hanna, Susan, 472 Store Rd, Harleysville, 19438-2502  
 Jones, Barbara L., 8 Karen Dr, Malvern, 19355-2408  
 Lyons, Kazuko, 38 Indian Creek Dr, Levittown, 19057-2229  
 Menzel, Heather, 135 N Main St, Yardley, 19067-1322  
 Nyce, Brenda, 276 Pheasant Ln, Glen Mills, 19342-1901  
 Roth, Elizabeth, 105 Carleton Rd, Wallingford, 19086-6116  
 Santino, Joan, 2621 9th Ave, Boothwyn, 19061-3402  
 Shannon, Laura, 8845 Norwood Ave, Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, 19118-2710  
 Smith, Judith, 7808 Conwell Rd, Laverock, 19038-7205  
 Tinari, Anne, 2325 Valley Rd # 190, Huntingdon Valley, 19006-6007  
 Wezel, Penelope, RR 2 Box 225J, Ulster, 18850-9649

## RHODE ISLAND

- Gimblet, Susan, 10 Kenyon Rd, Tiverton, 02878-1618  
 Warren, Ruth, 99 Hancock St Apt 159, Tiverton, 02878-2360

## SOUTH CAROLINA

- Mims, Sandra P, 34 Waterway Island Dr, Isle of Palms, 29451-2728  
 Short, Vere, 100 Dorsetshire Downs, Summerville, 29485-8608

## SOUTH DAKOTA

- Deutsch, Randy G, 2305 E 19th St, Sioux Falls, 57103-2356

## TENNESSEE

- Adamson, Peggy, 4640 Whites Creek Pike, Whites Creek, 37189-9131  
 Cooper, Carolyn Reed, 3197 Wortham Rd, Millington, 38053-7503  
 Ellis, Judy, 6110 Barrentine Dr, Bartlett, 38134-5934  
 Johnson, E Lorraine, 3356 S Perkins Rd, Memphis, 38118-4355  
 Pair, Iona, 3578 Country Lane Cv, Memphis, 38133-2802  
 Ramsey, Mike, 1805 Watson St, Memphis, 38111-7826  
 Shirley, Ann, 7150 Cedar Rd, Bartlett, 38135-1904  
 Stagg, Geneva, 8188 Scruggs Dr, Germantown, 38138-6120  
 Steele, Katherine, 1736 Cornelia Ln, Memphis, 38117-7004  
 Thurman, Gary, 924 Broken Arrow Cv, Collierville, 38017-7357  
 Thurman, Rhona, 924 Broken Arrow Cv, Collierville, 38017-7357

## TEXAS

- Acree, Yvonne, 3235 Lockmoor Ln, Dallas, 75220-1631  
 Altenburg, Suzanne Patricia, 12633 Memorial Dr Apt 82, Houston, 77024-4843  
 Bullard, Marjorie, 6301 Meadowvista Dr Apt 1217, Corpus Christi, 78414-2639

- Castiglione, Janet M., 313 Plantation Oak Ave, Lake Dallas, 75065-2206  
 Chilcutt, Myrtle R., 5000 Meadow Lakes Dr Apt 305, North Richland Hills, 76180-7865  
 Clark, Anita D, 309 Lakeway Dr, Benbrook, 76126-3104  
 Click, Elaine, 10251 Helmsdale St, Houston, 77043-1810  
 Coleman, Laurie Kaye, 10319 Brickyard Ct, Houston, 77041-7837  
 Corondan, Mary, 7205 Dillon Ct, Plano, 75024-3853  
 Crawford, Margie C., 735 Oban Dr, San Antonio, 78216-6145  
 Cridder, Vickie L., 2738 Tinechester Dr, Humble, 77339-1032  
 Curry, Eunice, 617 Mimosa Dr, Denton, 76201-0858  
 Davidson, Janice, 941 Fm 2377, Red Oak, 75154-7401  
 Davidson, Ronald, 941 Fm 2377, Red Oak, 75154-7401  
 Davis, Grace, 3418 Urban Dr, Garland, 75041-4628  
 De Leon, Berta, 1202 Lady Ln, Duncanville, 75116-2018  
 Dubose, Gloria, PO Box 724, Georgetown, 78627-0724  
 Early, Alex D, 5916 Walla Ave, Fort Worth, 76133-2716  
 Fergon, Peggy, 7517 Overhill Rd, Fort Worth, 76116-9017  
 Flynn, Norma H, 20224 Havenshire Dr, Montgomery, 77316-3136  
 Forcht, Mrs. Brennan A, 833 McKinney St, Arlington, 76012-4617  
 Fort, Mural, 3921 Honey Ln, North Richland Hills, 76180-8760  
 Foster, Bill, 3610 Gray Dr, Mesquite, 75150-2121  
 Foster, Paula, 3610 Gray Dr, Mesquite, 75150-2121  
 Froboese, Ken, 32005 Ih 10 W, Boerne, 78006-9212  
 Fuster, Blanca, 1003 Creighton Ct, Mesquite, 75150-6075  
 Garlick, Maxine S, 2730 Arrowhead Dr, Copperas Cove, 76522-7201  
 Geers, Jerry, 2819 Frontier Dr, Midland, 79705-6108  
 Geers, Lea, 2819 Frontier Dr, Midland, 79705-6108  
 Gibbs, Dolores, 608 Larue Dr, San Marcos, 78666-2410  
 Goeke, Ruth, 4851 Pieper Rd, Brenham, 77833-7072  
 Goins, Gerri, 11030 Silkwood Dr, Houston, 77031-2220  
 Golla, Billie, 646 Evergreen Ln, New Braunfels, 78130-6626  
 Goss, Nancy, 1710 Deerfield Dr, Austin, 78741-3705  
 Hall, Meredith M, 1206 Hilltop Run, Lindale, 75771-5106  
 Harney, Irene, 8323 Chivalry St, San Antonio, 78254-2408  
 Hummer, Alma, 10606 Sunflower Ln, San Antonio, 78213-1623  
 Johnson, Dea V., 610 Mauze Dr, San Antonio, 78216-3711  
 Johnson, William H, 610 Mauze Dr, San Antonio, 78216-3711  
 Kimbro, Joyce, 4107 Wyldwood Rd, Austin, 78739-3010  
 Leeds, Sylvia, 602 County Road 3702, Quinlan, 75474-6100  
 McElhannon, Bonnie, 305 Audra Cir, Rhome, 76078-3403  
 Mischel, Debra J., 2302 Mayfield Dr, Round Rock, 78681-1418  
 Nabers, John P, 714 El Toro Ln, Houston, 77062-5008  
 Nicholas, Anne M, 3113 Deerfield Dr, Denton, 76208-3428  
 Nicholas, Dr. Richard A, 3113 Deerfield Dr, Denton, 76208-3428  
 Peek, Allene, RR 1 Box 17, Bellevue, 76228-9504  
 Pittman, Hortense, 7416 County Road 129, Celina, 75009-4704  
 Pittman, Jesse R., 7416 County Road 129, Celina, 75009-4704  
 Powers, Beverly, 13 Lundys Ln, Richardson, 75080-2357  
 Pursley, Jeannette, 10606 Man O War Ave, Austin, 78719-9606

TM Ramser, Sue, 2413 Martin St, Wichita Falls, 76308-1908  
 J Range, Terri, 2350 Mockingbird Ln, Garland, 75042-8329  
 J Reddell, Janey E, 2408 Cedar Ln, Schertz, 78154-2741  
 J Reuss, Phyllis, 3924 Bordeaux Cir, Flower Mound, 75022-7047  
 M Rexilius, Jane, 5634 Yarwell Dr, Houston, 77096-3922  
 M Rhodes, Aloha, PO Box 57, Manchaca, 78652-0057  
 X Sanders, Sandy, 1034 Rayburn Dr, San Antonio, 78221-1446  
 X Sanders, Shirley, 1034 Rayburn Dr, San Antonio, 78221-1446  
 J Saunders, Mary Lou, 2214 Saharah Dr, Garland, 75044-7165  
 S Savage, Marge, 2804 Stutz Dr, Midland, 79705-4928  
 X Scott, Iris, 11840 Rimrock Trl, Austin, 78737-2827  
 J Spachek, Steven, 234 W Mally Blvd, San Antonio, 78221-3832  
 X Stallings, Mary, 3709 Glenmont Dr, Fort Worth, 76133-2953  
 X Stenger, Joyce A, 714 El Toro Ln, Houston, 77062-5008  
 X Storey, Susan, 110 Rogers Ridge St, San Marcos, 78666-4715  
 S Tichy, Nadine, 218 Steeplechase Dr, Irving, 75062-3818  
 J Tracy, Betty, 6103 Royal Pt, San Antonio, 78239-1540  
 M Turner, Martha, PO Box 29727, Dallas, 75229-0727  
 X Walbrick, Mary, 5235 Kingston Dr, Wichita Falls, 76310-3029  
 M Wheeler, Ruth, PO Box 225829, Dallas, 75222-5829  
 S Womack, Michele R, 1300 Black Oak Dr, Carrollton, 75007-1024  
 M Wright, Trish, 2106 Woodland Park Dr, Houston, 77077-6428  
 TM Young, Frances, 6109 Shadow Mountain Dr, Austin, 78731-4162

#### VIRGINIA

TM Boland, Mary A, 6415 Wilcox Ct, Alexandria, 22310-3329  
 S Carr, Vicki, 8365 Jane Lee Cir, Mechanicsville, 23116-2422  
 J Dudley, Roseanne C, 409 Dune St, Norfolk, 23503-5330

M Giangerelli, Mary Ann, 2710 Viking Dr, Herndon, 20171-2400  
 X Grundy, Alice D, 3018 Hungary Spring Rd, Richmond, 23228-2420  
 J Hedgepeth, Kathryn A, 4024 Cutshaw Ave, Richmond, 23230-3930  
 J Hoffmann, Susan B, 801 N Villier Ct, Virginia Beach, 23452-3941  
 TM Jones, Laurene, 3430 Luttrell Rd, Annandale, 22003-1269  
 J Knight, P, 1796 Stonehaven Ln, Virginia Beach, 23464-7031  
 X Long, Sharon A, 1546 Heritage Hill Dr, Richmond, 23233-4332  
 J Schmidt, William C, 500 Danray Dr, Richmond, 23227-1927  
 TM Skelton, Elinor, 3910 Larchwood Rd, Falls Church, 22041-1108  
 J Stewart, Barbara, 18121 W County Line Rd, Midlothian, 23112-6015  
 J Van, Carol, 300 Brittain Ln, Hampton, 23669-1052  
 TM Wilson, John E, 10007 Bent Tree Ln, Manassas, 20111-4222

#### WISCONSIN

TX Degner, Kevin W, 1741 Iowa St, Oshkosh, 54902-6828  
 J Eberle, Mickey, N93W17229 Devonwood Rd, Menomonee Falls, 53051-1405  
 J Fossum, Dorothy, 3177 N 95th St, Milwaukee, 53222-3522  
 J Fox, Mrs Betsy, 1235 N Westfield St, Oshkosh, 54902-3218  
 J Garvens, Arlene, 30630 Outboard Rd, Elroy, 53929-8834  
 J Heider, Catherine, 4132 Spring Rd, Omro, 54963-9767  
 J Judd, Janice, W6090 County Road P, Monroe, 53566-9662  
 J Lewis, Mable, W8934 Davis Rd, Browntown, 53522-9741  
 TM Mengsol, Ruth E, 5616 W Cairdel Ln, Mequon, 53092-1190  
 TM Merrell, Irene, W283 Hillendale Dr, Oconomowoc, 53066-5530  
 S Peterson, Alice M, 3611 Mathias Way, Verona, 53593-9588  
 J Streit, Shirley, N1795 County Rd S, Juda, 53550-9768  
 J Winke, Carol, 1705 N 68th St, Milwaukee, 53213-2307

# 2002 AVSA Affiliated Clubs

(Editors Note: This is the Affiliate List as reported by the AVSA office as of July 15, 2002. Please contact the office regarding any questions or corrections.)

## INTERNET CLUBS

### AV International Email Group,

Karen Panek, karenp@worldnet.co.nz

### African Violet Connection, lwelchel@satx.rr.com

### African Violet Friends Club,

<http://clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/africanvioletfriends>

### Gesneriad Lovers Club,

<http://clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/gesneriadlovers>

### Internet AV Club, Amy Trent altbass@junx.com

### Violet Reflections, Janet Stromborg twinhill@earthlink.net

## AUSTRALIA

**AVS of Queensland,** Lorrie Maher, President, 32 Fig Tree Pocket Rd, Brisbane, 4069

**AVS of South Australia,** L Fenton, President, 75/67 St Bernards Rd, Magill, 5072

**AVS of Western Australia,** Mrs Nal Goulding, President, PO Box 3, South Perth, 6951

**Early Morn AV Group,** The Librarian, President, PO Box 186, Mt Waverly, 3149

## NEW SOUTH WALES

**AV Association of Australia, Inc.,** Patricia O'Reiley, President, 4 Batavia Place, Baulkham Hills, 2153

**AV-Gesneriad Society of NSW,** Robyn McEwen, President, Po Box 214, Strathfield, 2135

**Ci-Central Coast AVC,** J White, President, 379 Main Rd, Norville, 2263

**Hunter Valley AVS,** Mrs. Leonie Mills, President, 18 Sunrise Close, Belmont, 2280

## BAHAMAS

**Bahamas AVS,** Sybil Strachan, President, PO Box GT 2048, Nassau

## CANADA

### ALBERTA

**AVS of Calgary,** Elizabeth Rousseau, President, 10401 19th St Sw #30, Calgary, T2W 3E7

**Edmonton AVS,** Joanna McDonald, President, 4329 Riverbend Rd, Edmonton, T6H 5R9

**Stampede City AVS,** Laurel Goretsky, President, 4122 Brentwood Rd Nw, Calgary, T2L 1K8

### BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Vancouver AV and Gesneriad Society,** Dr. Bill Price, President, 2909 Mathers Ave, West Vancouver, V7V 2J7

### MANITOBA

**Winnipeg AVS,** Bonnie Batchelor, President, 84 Manitou Bay, Winnipeg, R3K 0V8

### NEW BRUNSWICK

**Fundy Violet Club,** Susan Brooks, President, 260 Douglas Avenue, Saint John, E2K 1E6

**Monctonian AVS,** Jane Wood, President, 130 Ranch Rd, Riverview, E1B 1P3

**Royal Saintpaulia Club,** Susan MacNichol, President, 50 Meadow Crescent, Sussex Corner, E4E 2Y7

## NOVA SCOTIA

**Annapolis Valley AVS,** Karen Campbell, President, Box 704, Greenwood, B0P 1N0

**First Halifax AVS,** Ina Beaver, President, 41 James Roy Dr, Porters Lake, B3E 1H9

## ONTARIO

**AVSA Judges Council Ontario,** Jim Toms, President, 80-600 Silvercreek Blvd, Mississauga, L5A 2B4

**Heritage AVS,** Brian Krick, President, 406 Tapleytown Rd, Stoney Creek, L8J 3K6

**Lakeshore AVS,** Jim Toms, President, 80-600 Silvercreek Blvd, Mississauga, L5A 2B4

**London AVS,** Betty Wilson, President, 814 Riverside Dr, London, N6H 2S9

**Oakville AVS,** Josefine Fitzwilliam, President, 2120 Parkway Dr, Burlington, L7P 1S4

**Ottawa AVS,** Dick Harriman, President, 2395 Ogilvie, Ottawa, K1J 7N4

**Toronto AVS,** Jean Hamilton, President, 130 Wishing Well Dr, Agincourt, M1T 1J7

**Toronto Gesneriad Society,** Susan Smith, President, 80-600 Silvercreek Blvd, Mississauga, L5A 2B4

## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

**Prince Edward Island AVS,** Helena Carruthers, President, 125 Small Ave, Summerside, C1N 4S9

## QUEBEC

**AVS of Greater Montreal,** Greta Durand, President, 21 Lakeshore Rd #317, Pointe Claire, H9S 5N3

**Club Violettes Longueuil,** Denise Gagnon, President, CP 21126 Succ Jacques Cartier, Longueuil, J4J 5J4

**Les Violettes Saguenennes,** Jean-Paul Chayer, President, 875 Rang 9, St Ambroise, G7P 2A4

**Societe Des Saintpaulia De Montreal,** Laurent Crepeau, President, 2884 Chemin Ste-marie, Mascouche, J7K 1N5

## ENGLAND

**Saintpaulia & Houseplant Society,** Mrs. F B F Dunningham, MBE, President, 33 Church Rd Newbury Prk, Ilford, IG2 7ET

## HONG KONG

**AVS of Hong Kong Ltd,** Lau Hin Cheung, President, PO Box 99075 (T.S.T.), Tsim Sha Tsui

## JAPAN

**Japan International Saintpaulia Society,** Mrs Toshi Kawakami, President, 2-13-3B-604 Shibasaki Chofu-City, Tokyo 182

## NEW ZEALAND

**Wanganui African Violet & Gesneriad Club,** J Burkett, President, 24 Nile St, Wanganui,

## RUSSIA

**Saintpaulia Society Of Russia**, Natalia Audreeva, President,  
18 Shipok Str, Moscow, 113093

## SOUTH AFRICA

**Kzn AVS**, Wendy Low, President, 2 Cowell Pl, Escombe, 4093  
**Transvaal AVS**, Hendrien Fouche, President, PO Box 18,  
Wierda Park, 0149

## TAIWAN

**Taiwan African Violet Club**, Fu Chen Tung, President, 4 Lane  
61 Kuo Shan 3rd Rd, Kao-Hsiung, 804

## UNITED STATES

### ALABAMA

**Alabama AV Judges Council**, Peg Phythyon, President, 852  
Haggerty Rd, Wetumpka, 36093-3316  
**Capital City AVS of Montgomery**, Archie Boyd, President,  
239 Nottingham Rd, Montgomery, 36109-3723  
**Early Bird Violet Club**, Gwen Johnson, President, 5105  
Hollow Log Ln, Birmingham, 35244-1925  
**Montgomery AVS**, Marty Davis, President, 2051 County Road  
59, Prattville, 36067-8032

### ALASKA

**Aurora Borealis AVS**, Helen Krumley, President, 6609 E 12th  
Ave, Anchorage, 99504-1737

### ARIZONA

**Desert Sun AVS**, Tami Rawlings, President, 3902 S Felix Pl,  
Chandler, 85248-4450  
**Roadrunner African Violet Society**, Rosemary Lort,  
President, 15818 N 52nd St, Scottsdale, 85254-1707  
**Tucson AVS**, Allan Reith, President, 5111 N Northridge Cir,  
Tucson, 85718-5653

### ARKANSAS

**Bella Vista AVS**, Pam Schwarz, President, 118 Apple Blossom  
Ln, Bentonville, 72712-8424  
**Green Thumb AVC**, Ruby Pope, President, 1632 E 5th St,  
Fayetteville, 72701-4502  
**North Central Arkansas AVS**, Betty Ferguson, President,  
19009 Oaklawn Cv, Little Rock, 72206-9056

### CALIFORNIA

**AV Council of Southern California**, Florence Naylor,  
President, 478 Arcade Dr, Ventura, 93003-4502  
**AV Judges Council of Northern California**, Byron Borck,  
President, 1425 Ditty Ave, Santa Rosa, 95403-2632  
**AVS of San Francisco**, Fred Grafelman, President, 1447 32nd  
Ave, San Francisco, 94122-3136  
**AVS of South Bay**, Nancy Funnell, President, PO Box 3392,  
Saratoga, 95070-1392  
**AVSA Judges Council of Southern CA**, Dorothy Kosowsky,  
President, 712 Cunningham Dr, Whittier, 90601-1016  
**Bakersfield AVS**, Vickie Wilson, President, 22133 Lilac St,  
Tehachapi, 93561-8903  
**Bellflower AVS**, Tressa Annabel, President, 6555 Loch Alene  
Ave, Pico Rivera, 90660-3567  
**Burbank AVS**, Mr. Carroll McCarroll, President, 4100 Perlita  
Ave, Los Angeles, 90039-1312

**Capital City AVS**, Oscar Faoro, President, 7361 22nd St,  
Sacramento, 95822-4911  
**Carlsbad AVS**, Barbara Conrad, President, 3435 Jasmine Crst,  
Encinitas, 92024-7036  
**Central California AVS**, Karen Willoughby, President, 13100  
S Highland Ave, Selma, 93662-9428  
**Delta Gesneriad and AVS**, Leona Faoro, President, 7361  
22nd St, Sacramento, 95822-4911  
**Fancy Bloomers AVS**, John Rizzi, President, 360 Bohemian  
Hwy, Sebastopol, 95472-9578  
**Fantasy Violeteers**, Marilyn Larrance, President, PO Box  
1222, Corning, 96021-1222  
**Foothill AVS**, Jean Buczynski, President, 18441 E Renwick Rd,  
Azusa, 91702-5923  
**Granada Hills AVS**, George Delafrance, President, 8835  
Swinton Ave, North Hills, 91343-4723  
**Happy Trails AVS**, Millie Reavis, President, 19670 Tonkawan  
Rd, Apple Valley, 92307-5018  
**Humboldt County AVS**, Kristi Wilson, President, 2054  
Rohnerville Rd, Fortuna, 95540-2246  
**Montrose AVS**, Donna Kirkland, President, 2323 Blackmore  
Dr, Glendale, 91206-3008  
**Orange County AVS**, Diane Miller, President, 7056 E Country  
Club Ln, Anaheim, 92807-4414  
**Pomona Valley AVS**, Pat Vinciguerra, President, 1350 San  
Bernardino Rd Spc 169, Upland, 91786  
**San Fernando Valley AVS**, Harriett Kerwin, President, 8430  
Ranchito Ave, Panorama City, 91402-3802  
**San Joaquin AVS**, Pat A. Soares, President, 408 N Sherman  
Ave, Manteca, 95336-3907  
**San Mateo County AVS**, Carolee Carter, President, 183 del  
Monte Ln, Morgan Hill, 95037-3541  
**Sierra Violet Lovers**, Connie Byars, President, 24225 Road  
224, Lindsay, 93247-9000  
**South Coast AVS**, Jacquie Eisenhut, President, 22800 Eriel  
Ave, Torrance, 90505-3011  
**Thousand Oaks AVS**, Barbara Burde, President, 272 Fawn  
Valley Ct, Simi Valley, 93065-6773  
**Town and Country AVS**, Olive I. Pratt, President, 25010 Tulip  
Ave, Loma Linda, 92354-3446  
**Tustana AVS**, Immi Bullinger, President, 1866 N Glenview Cir,  
Anaheim, 92807-1031  
**Ventura County AVS**, Adrienne Stringer, President, 250 El  
Camino Dr, Ojai, 93023-2307

### COLORADO

**Gesneriad AV Club**, Mrs Allison Brigham, President, 1122 8th  
St, Golden, 80401-1009  
**Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers**, Harry Weber, President, 3003  
Spring Mountain Dr, Loveland, 80537-7428  
**Happiness Is AVS**, Millissa Culver, President, 14534 N 107th  
St, Longmont, 80504  
**Hi Country Judges Workshop**, Nelly Levine, President, 8797  
Iris St, Arvada, 80005-1233  
**Loveland Sweetheart Violettes**, Harry Weber, President,  
3003 Spring Mountain Dr, Loveland, 80537-7428  
**Rocky Mountain AV Council**, Richard Schmaltz, President,  
3130 Wright Ct, Lakewood, 80215-6538  
**The AVS of Denver Chapter 1**, Janice Sorensen, President,  
8357 E Jamison Cir S, Englewood, 80112-2751  
**The Violeteers**, Sharon Prichard, President, 2635 S Franklin St,  
Denver, 80210-5924

**Ultra Violet Club**, Geneva Holmes, President, 8810 Hooker Way, Westminster, 80031-3336

## CONNECTICUT

**Naugatonic AVS**, Edna Rourke, President, 99 Old Stratford Rd, Shelton, 06484-6129

**Nutmeg State AVS**, Charlene Boyce, President, 2 Calvin Dr, North Branford, 06471-1536

**Silvermine AVS**, Marjorie Rosenberg, President, 21 Cardinal Rd, Weston, 06883-2404

**Thimble Island AVS**, Richard Bower, President, 239 Fort Path Rd, Madison, 06443-2216

**Windsor AVS**, Sylvia Taub, President, 141 Eastview Dr, Windsor, 06095-1829

## DELAWARE

**Delaware AVS**, Libby Behnke, President, 1735 Old Baltimore Pike, Newark, 19702-2027

## FLORIDA

**AV Council of Florida**, Phyllis King, President, 11752 111th Ter, Seminole, 33778-3604

**AVC of Daytona**, Pat Crowley, President, 3051 Princeton Ave, Daytona Beach, 32118-3130

**AVS of Fort Walton Beach**, Frances Crissman, President, PO Box 415, Shalimar, 32579-0415

**AVS of Pensacola**, Sharon Stilson, President, 414 Hyacinth Dr Apt 103, Pensacola, 32506-7907

**AVS of SW Florida**, Lillian C. Scott, President, 1911 SE 32nd St, Cape Coral, 33904-4092

**Central Florida AVS**, Elvie Clandenning, President, 2400 Dolphin Rd, Titusville, 32780-4574

**Edison AVC**, Jean West, President, 2010 SE 28th St, Cape Coral, 33904-3255

**Fantasy VC**, Fran Carson, President, 3152 Deltona Blvd, Spring Hill, 34606-3114

**First Lakeland AVS**, Mary Jan DiLorenzo, President, 356 Lake Harris Dr, Lakeland, 33813-2634

**Gulf AVC**, Catherine Carter, President, 12833 Vista Pine Cir, Fort Myers, 33913-7977

**Heart of Florida**, Ron Bannister, President, 695 Bear Creek Ct, Winter Springs, 32708-3646

**Heart of Jacksonville AVS**, Fran Bree, President, 8023 Fort Caroline Rd, Jacksonville, 32277-2222

**Mid Polk AVS**, Shirley Berger, President, 4343 Schumacher Rd - 196E, Sebring, 33872-2639

**North Lake AV Society**, Alice R. Bosse, President, 41900 County Road 25, Weirsdale, 32195-5144

**Sarasota AVS**, Deborah Conley, President, 2824 Wilkinson Rd, Sarasota, 34231-2800

**Suncoast AVS**, Karen Boosinger, President, 10836 Forest Run Cir, Bradenton, 34211-9743

**Tampa AVS**, Dottie Cesario, President, 5704 Puritan Rd, Tampa, 33617-7723

**Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society**, Jo Anne Martinez, President, 809 Taray de Avila, Tampa, 33613-1048

**The Nite Bloomers AVS**, Charles Dorr, President, 8742 Irongate Dr, Jacksonville, 32244-5911

**The Violet Patch of South Florida**, Peggy Madison, President, 15831 SW 54th Pl, Fort Lauderdale, 33331-3376

**Treasure Coast AVS**, Betty Hartung, President, 5844 Summerfield Ct, Fort Pierce, 34982-3973

**Upper Pinellas AVS**, Marianne Martin, President, 1943 Radcliffe Dr N, Clearwater, 33763-4433

## GEORGIA

**AVC of Greater Atlanta**, Phyllis Hinkle, President, 806 Sheppard Cv, Stone Mountain, 30083-6023

**Chattanooga African Violet Club**, Kay Redhorse, President, PO Box 81, Chickamauga, 30707-0081

**Dixie AVS**, Pierce Cumpton, President, 219 Sunset Dr, Warner Robins, 31088-4170

**East Ridge AVS**, Kay Red Horse, President, PO Box 81, Chickamauga, 30707-0081

**Georgia African Violet Growers Club**, Joan F Cumpston, President, 219 Sunset Dr, Warner Robins, 31088-4170

**Georgia AV Judges Society**, Laura Walker, President, 11048 Big Canoe, Jasper, 30143-5142

**Georgia State AV Council**, Kathy Spissman, President, 4086 Brownlee Dr, Tucker, 30084-6113

**High Hopes VC of South Atlanta**, Susan Wilson, President, 1193 Vineyard Rd, Griffin, 30223-8735

**Master City AV & Gesneriad Society**, Sharon Miles, President, 1954 Liberty Church Rd, Hephzibah, 30815-4421

**Tara AVC**, Loraine Leonard, President, 112 Dunwoody Cir, Griffin, 30223-6439

## HAWAII

**AVS of Hawaii**, Thurlow W. DeCrow, President, 47-184 Kamehameha Hwy, Kaneohe, 96744

## ILLINOIS

**AVS of Northern Illinois**, Edward Johnson, President, 4901 N Ozanam Ave, Norridge, 60706-3203

**Barrington Bloomers AVS**, Nikki Collard, President, 27547 N Forest Garden Rd, Wauconda, 60084-2841

**Fox Valley AVS**, Cindy Harwood, President, 2270 Nordic Ct, Aurora, 60504-3238

**Glenview/North Shore AVS**, Barbara Goodsell, President, 429 Cherry Ln, Glenview, 60025-4576

**Illinois AVS Inc**, Morgan Jean Simmons, President, 2210 Hartzell St, Evanston, 60201-1424

**Lake Shore AVS**, Carol Allegretti, President, 213 Westgate St, Woodstock, 60098-7856

**Margaret Scott AVS**, Lois Crider, President, 2172 County Road 1850 N, Saint Joseph, 61873-9408

**Metropolitan AVS of Peoria**, Gary Duchien, President, 117 Lynn St, Washington, 61571-2836

**Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society**, Bob Nicholson, President, PO Box 2836, Des Plaines, 60017-2836

**Quad Cities AVS**, John Jugenheimer, President, 14 Hickory Hls, Geneseo, 61254-9000

**Twin Cities AVS**, Arlene Ashley, President, 14545 Mark Ln, Bloomington, 61704-5654

## INDIANA

**Hoosier African Violet Society**, Jean G. Willey, President, 851 Kenmare Pkwy, Crown Point, 46307-2654

**Indy African Violet Club**, Donna Clark, President, 4211 W Castleton Ct, Muncie, 47304-2410

## IOWA

**Cedar Valley Violet Club**, David Thompson, President, 461 Progress Ave, Waterloo, 50701-5615



**Evening AVC Des Moines**, Ginny Nelson, President, 1633  
63rd St, Des Moines, 50322-5947

### KANSAS

**Lawrence AVC**, Raymond Russell, President, 807 W 27th Ter,  
Lawrence, 66046-4617

**Mid-America AVS**, Raymond Russell, President, 807 W 27th  
Ter, Lawrence, 66046-4617

**Topeka AVS**, Jean Patterson, President, 1247 SW Fillmore St,  
Topeka, 66604-1166

**Wichita AV Study Club**, Mary A. Smith, President, 2034 S  
Park Rdg, Wichita, 67209-3279

### KENTUCKY

**AVS of Kentuckiana**, Charlotte Stewart, President, 4511  
Shenandoah Dr, Louisville, 40241-1865

**Fort Massie AVS**, Diane Fischer, President, 752 Imogene Dr,  
Gilbertsville, 42044-8535

### LOUISIANA

**Jefferson AV Association**, Genelle Armstrong, President,  
1313 Gardenia Dr, Metairie, 70005-1152

**Louisiana Cncl of AV Jdgs & Growers**, Mary McFarland,  
President, 745 Parlange Dr, Baton Rouge, 70806-1844

**Sundowners AVS**, Robert Truax, President, 408 Hearthstone  
Dr, Baton Rouge, 70806-5007

**The Verbeau AVC**, Sharon Hardwick, President, PO Box 119,  
Slagle, 71475-0119

**Top Choice AVS**, Sherry Stilter, President, 309 Greenacres  
Blvd, Bossier City, 71111-6053

### MARYLAND

**Baltimore AVC**, Joanne Baker-Pruner, President, 125 Dalesway  
Dr, Pasadena, 21122-4057

**Mid-Atlantic AVS**, Ken Barbi, President, 1809 View Top Ct,  
Annapolis, 21401-5873

**Potomac Council of AV Judges**, Gary Gordon, President, 120  
Brinkwood Rd, Brookeville, 20833-2307

### MASSACHUSETTS

**All Seasons AVC**, Nancy Manozzi, President, 373 Singletary  
Ln, Framingham, 01702-6128

**Bay State AVS**, Carol Hess, President, 7 Gibbs St, Framingham,  
01701-4515

**Moby Dick AVC**, John Cook, President, 28 Minot St, Falmouth,  
02540-2840

### MICHIGAN

**Michigan State AVS**, Lorean Callentine, President, 2850 Green  
Rd, West Branch, 48661-9609

**Town & Country AVC**, Lynn Allen, President, 1195 Fairfax  
Ave, Bloomfield Hills, 48302-0118

### MINNESOTA

**AVS of Minnesota**, Donna Breen, President, 825 Rockview Ct,  
Duluth, 55804-1912

**Judges Council of Minnesota**, Sandy Officer, President, 8920  
Southwood Dr, Bloomington, 55437-1744

**Lakes Area Violet Growers**, Judith Neumann, President,  
22875 Kirk Ave N, Scandia, 55073-9751

**North Star AV Council**, Gail Podany, President, 5256  
Beachside Dr., Minnetonka, 55343-4322

### MISSOURI

**Amethyst AVC**, Carolyn Burr, President, 910 Almond Hill Ct,  
Manchester, 63021-7004

**AVC of Greater Kansas City**, Marsha Loveland, President,  
11303 S Alley Jackson Rd, Grain Valley, 64029

**Gateway West Gesneriad Society**, Gary Dunlap, President,  
4189 Jarvis Rd, Hillsboro, 63050-2708

**Heart of Missouri AVS**, Catherine Ross, President, RR 2 Box  
165, Moberly, 65270-9620

**Inner City AVS**, Barbara Fisher, President, 5119 Longhorn Trl,  
Florissant, 63033-7706

**Katy Trail African Violet Club**, Glenda Holm, President, 8  
Linda Ln, Saint Peters, 63376-3405

**M K O African Violet Society**, Doris F. Carson, President,  
1702 S Joplin Ave, Joplin, 64804-0649

**Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council**, Nancy Amelung,  
President, 9708 Greenwood Ter, Saint Louis, 63119-1304

**Missouri Valley AV Council**, Ramona Donnell, President, PO  
Box 959, Carl Junction, 64834-0959

**Sho-Me AVC**, Doris Brown, President, 33706 E Spencer Rd,  
Oak Grove, 64075-7249

**Springfield Chapter of AVS**, Bonnie Bailey, President, 2157 N  
Benton Ave, Springfield, 65803-3035

**St Louis AV Judges Council**, Helen Blanton, President, 622  
Riverside Dr, Saint Charles, 63304-7945

**The Unpredictable's AVS**, Linda Golubski, President, 1416  
NW A St, Blue Springs, 64015-3605

**Wandering African Violet Enthusiasts Society**, Pat Dunlap,  
President, 4189 Jarvis Rd, Hillsboro, 63050-2708

**West County AVC**, Susan Hapner, President, 35 Ridge Point  
Dr, Chesterfield, 63017-2718

### MONTANA

**Billings Bloomers AVS**, Jo Ann Levine, President, 2608  
Wyoming Ave, Billings, 59102-3849

### NEBRASKA

**Grand Island AVS**, Shannon Ahlman, President, 310 N  
Walnut St, Grand Island, 68801-5960

**Happy Hour Violet Club**, Dorothy Elliot, President, 300 S 7th  
St Apt 2, Tekamah, 68061-1497

**Lincoln AVS**, BJ Ohme, President, 1136 A St Apt 3, Lincoln,  
68502-1236

**Omaha African Violet Society**, Perry Robinson, President,  
2500 California St, Omaha, 68178-0001

### NEVADA

**Reno-Sparks AVS**, Carol Mark, President, 1823 Fairlie Ct,  
Sparks, 89434-8883

### NEW HAMPSHIRE

**The Quannapowitt AVC**, Lisa DiMambro, President, 182 Old  
Chester Tpke, Chester, 03036-4016

### NEW JERSEY

**AVC of Burlington County**, Karen Monahan, President, 43  
Balfour Ln, Willingboro, 08046-1101

**AVC of Morris County**, Jan Dougherty, President, 51  
Mackenzie Rd, Morristown, 07960-4530

**Bergen County AVS**, Sharon Lynch, President, 16 Garnett Pl,  
Norwood, 07648-1241

**Central Jersey AVS**, Eleanor Mattaliano, President, 23 Apple Orchard Dr, Eatontown, 07724-2801

**Seaview AVS**, Lew Whitaker, President, 30 Grand Teton Ave, Howell, 07731-9000

**Tristate AV Council**, Fred Hill, President, 88 Horseshoe LN S Columbus, 08022-1062

**Union County Chapter AVS**, Christine Brenner, President, 17 Farmingdale Rd, East Brunswick, 08816-2864

### NEW MEXICO

**Albuquerque AVC**, Margaret Schmierer, President, 5010 Crownpoint Ct NW, Albuquerque, 87120

### NEW YORK

**AVS of Greater New York**, Edie DeGaetano, President, 82 Lakeshore Dr, Eastchester, 10709-5210

**AVS of Rochester**, Robert Hesselberth, President, 19 Shadow Creek Dr, Penfield, 14526-1063

**AVS of Syracuse**, Peter Thompson, President, 212 Locksley Rd, Syracuse, 13224-1827

**AVS of Western New York**, Judy Niemira, President, 12 Dappled Dr, East Amherst, 14051-1420

**Heritage AVS of Long Island**, Pamela J. Caro, Sr., President, 78 Squirrel Ln, Levittown, 11756-3615

**Long Island AVS**, Florence Schnauffer, President, 3392 Colony Dr, Baldwin, 11510-5116

**Mark Twain AVS**, Susan Nickerson, President, 614 Reynolds St, Elmira, 14904-2219

**Metropolitan Regional Council of AV Judges**, Claire J. Schirtzer, President, 158 W Hudson St, Long Beach, 11561-1925

**New Jersey Cncl/AV Judges**, Stephen Burrell, President, 135 Sunrise Hill Rd, Fishkill, 12524-2446

**New York State AVS**, Claire J. Schirtzer, President, 158 W Hudson St, Long Beach, 11561-1925

**Saintpaulia Society of Long Island**, Claire Schirtzer, President, 158 W Hudson St, Long Beach, 11561-1925

**Sweet Water AVS**, Carolyn Klein, President, 10239 85th Rd, Richmond Hill, 11418-1107

**The AVS of Staten Island**, Margaret Scheller, President, 58 Wolcott Ave, Staten Island, 10312-3106

### NORTH CAROLINA

**Coastal Plains African Violet Club**, Lucille Prutsman, President, 2836 N Nc Highway 58, Nashville, 27856-9010

**First Goldsboro AVS**, Louise B. Phillips, President, 2165 Carolina Cir, Goldsboro, 27530-9505

**Piedmont-Triad AVS**, Linda Abplanalp, President, 3134 Truitt Dr, Burlington, 27215-4660

**Triangle AVS**, Libbie Glembocki, President, 103 Downing Pl, Apex, 27502-9342

### OHIO

**AVS of Dayton**, Frank Winstel, President, 177 Kings Way, Lebanon, 45036-9595

**Cincinnati AVS**, Margie Slye, President, 2161 Bethel New Richmond Rd, New Richmond, 45157-9655

**Columbus AVS**, Myrtle Dalton, President, 4913 Fox Ridge Ct, Columbus, 43228-2215

**Ohio State AVS**, Sharon Holtzman, President, 6971 Olentangy Ln, Cincinnati, 45244-3146

**Parma town AVC**, Martha Bell, President, 5974 Boston Rd, Valley City, 44280-9339

**Sunset AVS**, Susan Miller, President, 14240 Mohler Rd, Liberty Center, 43532-9405

**Town & Country AVS**, Gertrude Morabito, President, 7057 Brightwood Dr, Painesville, 44077-2117

**Upper Miami Valley AVS**, Alta Kay Holmes, President, 1506 Bair Rd, Urbana, 43078-9461

### OKLAHOMA

**AVS of Greater Tulsa**, Judy Carter, President, 1825 W Lincoln St, Broken Arrow, 74012-8509

**Green Country AV Study Club**, Mary E. Hill, President, 1115 S 129th East Ave, Tulsa, 74108-3901

### OREGON

**Portland AVS**, Christy Duvendack, President, 17389 Banyon Ln, Lake Oswego, 97034-9001

**Portlandia Violet Club**, Blanche Bunker, President, 18005 SE Mill Ct, Portland, 97233-5170

### PENNSYLVANIA

**African Violet Enthusiasts Of Berks County**, Vicky Sokoloff, President, 5 Glenview Dr, Fleetwood, 19522-8974

**AVS of Central Pennsylvania**, Susan S. Reis, President, 1181 Williams St, State College, 16801-6310

**AVS of Philadelphia**, Mary Jane Crossan, President, 19 Barrel Stave Cir, Horsham, 19044-1907

**AVS of Springfield**, Barbara Jones, President, 8 Karen Dr, Malvern, 19355-2408

**Garden State AVC**, Heather C. Menzel, President, 135 N Main St, Morrisville, 19067-1322

**The Pittsburgh Violet & Gesneriad Society**, Georgene Albrecht, President, 101 Oak Heights Dr, Oakdale, 15071-11353

### SOUTH CAROLINA

**First AVS of Spartanburg**, Dean Pool, President, 380 Old Burnett Rd, Inman, 29349-9067

**Flower town Violet Club**, Uldene Short, President, 100 Dorsetshire Downs, Summerville, 29485-8608

**Palmetto AVS**, Trudi W. Christensen, President, 200 Lands End Blvd Apt 1015, Myrtle Beach, 29572-7055

### SOUTH DAKOTA

**South Dakota AVC**, Miriam Greene, President, 2008 S Blauvelt Ave, Sioux Falls, 57105-3223

### TENNESSEE

**Memphis AVS**, Judy Ellis, President, 6110 Barrentine Dr, Memphis, 38134-5934

**Nashville AVS**, Peggy Adamson, President, 4640 Whites Creek Pike, Whites Creek, 37189-9131

**Volunteer State AV Council**, Geneva Stagg, President, 8188 Scruggs Dr, Germantown, 38138-6120

### TEXAS

**Alpha AVS of Dallas**, Nadine Tichy, President, 218 Steeplechase Dr, Irving, 75062-3818

**AVS of Beaumont**, Terry Allen, President, 12930 Larch Ln, Beaumont, 77713-4513

**Central Texas Judges Council**, Connie Leifeste, President, 12000 Riverview Dr, Woodway, 76712-7608

**Corpus Christi AVS**, Marcia Pilbin, President, 13806 River Ridge Dr, Corpus Christi, 78410-5228

**First Austin AVS**, Debra Mischel, President, 2302 Mayfield Dr, Round Rock, 78681-1418

**First AVS of Dallas**, Jan Davidson, President, 941 Fm 2377, Red Oak, 75154-7401

**First AVS of Denton**, Janet Castiglione, President, 313 Plantation Oak Ave, Lake Dallas, 75065-2206

**First AVS of Wichita Falls**, Sue Ramser, President, 2413 Martin St, Wichita Falls, 76308-1908

**First Nighter AVS of Dallas**, Michele Womack, President, 1300 Black Oak Dr, Carrollton, 75007-1024

**Gulf Coast AVS**, Glen Kertz, President, 3484 Pheasant St, Orange, 77630-2044

**Lone Star AV Council**, Richard Nicholas, President, 3113 Deerfield Dr, Denton, 76208-3428

**Magic Knight AVS**, Irene Harney, President, 8323 Chivalry St, San Antonio, 78254-2408

**Moonlight AVS**, Bonnie Harris, President, 2908 Fincher Rd, Haltom City, 76117-4417

**Nasa Area AVS**, Allison Lang, President, 4334 Plover Dr, Seabrook, 77586-2546

**North Texas AV Judges Council**, Ron Davidson, President, 941 Fm 2377, Red Oak, 75154-7401

**Office Violets and Lunch**, Joyce Stenger, President, 714 El Toro Ln, Houston, 77062-5008

**Park Place AV Club**, Janette Regner, President, 7923 Glenlea St, Houston, 77061-2317

**San Marcos AVC**, Susan Storey, President, 110 Rogers Ridge St, San Marcos, 78666-4715

**Spring Branch AVC**, Teresa Kaminski, President, 8311 Debbie Gay Dr, Houston, 77040-1501

**Valley AVS**, Mary Hammar, President, PO Box 108, Donna, 78537-0108

**Victoria AVS**, Joanne Schrimsher, President, 2205 College Dr, Victoria, 77901-4474

**West Texas AVS**, Mary Robertson, President, 2100 E County Road 140, Midland, 79706-7106

#### **VIRGINIA**

**Blacksburg AVS**, K C. Arceneaux, President, 707 Ascot Ln, Blacksburg, 24060-4032

**Danville AVS**, John Sullivan, President, 781 Inman Rd, Danville, 24541-8047

**Lynnhaven AVS**, Sandi Flora, President, 8019 Baywood Dr, Norfolk, 23518-3145

**Old Dominion AVS of Northern VA**, Laurene Jones, President, 3430 Luttrell Rd, Annandale, 22003-1269

**Richmond AVS**, Kitty Hedgepeth, President, 4024 Cutshaw Ave, Richmond, 23230-3930

**The Tidewater AVS**, Linda Stinnette, President, 4209 Thistle Dr, Portsmouth, 23703-1630

#### **WASHINGTON**

**Longview AVC**, Debra Kramer, President, 158 Rainbow Heights Rd, Kelso, 98626-9701

**Saintpaulia Society of Tacoma**, Pat Shandrow, President, 4408 59th Street Ct E, Tacoma, 98443-2446

**Seattle AVS Inc**, Cris Pigg, President, 7001 190th St SW, Lynnwood, 98036-4129

#### **WEST VIRGINIA**

**Mountain State African Violets**, Marilyn Rogers, President, PO Box 569, Summersville, 26651-0569

#### **WISCONSIN**

**Crosstown AVC**, Arlene Garvens, President, 30630 Outboard Rd, Elroy, 53929-8834

**Late Bloomers AVS**, Janice Judd, President, W6090 County Road P, Monroe, 53566-9662

**Milwaukee AVS**, Joan Wilson, President, W534 Zion Church Rd, Theresa, 53091-9732

**Oshkosh Violet Society**, Cathy Heider, President, 4132 Spring Rd, Omro, 54963-9767

**River Cities AVC**, JoAnn Marti, President, 6621 Lenox Ave, Wisconsin Rapids, 54494-7180

**Sundowners AVC**, Alice Peterson, President, 3611 Mathias Way, Verona, 53593-9588

**Wisconsin Council of AV Clubs**, Janice Judd, President, W6090 County Road P, Monroe, 53566-9662

#### **WYOMING**

**Casper Bloomers**, Jan Yarbrough, President, 1633 Westridge Pl, Casper, 82604-3339

**The Sheridan AVC**, Debra Hanson, President, 560 Big Goose Rd, Sheridan, 82801-8616

# 2002 AVSA Commercial Members

**(Editors Note:** This is the Commercial List as reported by the AVSA office as of July 15, 2002. Please contact the office regarding any questions or corrections.)

## CANADA

### ALBERTA

**Bloomin' Basement,** Ingrid Nelson, 224 Douglas Woods Point Se, Calgary, T2Z 2A7

### BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Violets in Vogue,** Christine Estridge, 9249 Mainwaring Rd, Sidney, V8L 1J9

### ONTARIO

**Aca's Violet-Tree,** John Brownlie, 600 Silvercreek Blvd 80, Mississauga, L5A 2B4

**Dusty's Hybrid African Violets,** Box 56538, Woodbridge, L4L 8V5

### QUEBEC

**Bloomlovers,** Tina Drouin, 1140 Bourassa St, Rock Forest, J1N 2M5

## UNITED STATES

### ALASKA

**Beverly's Violets,** Beverly Hendricks, 6311 Debarr Rd Ste Q, Anchorage, 99504-1777

### ARIZONA

**Hattie Baggett,** HC 2 Box 381, Tucson, 85735-9714

**Barbara Fuller,** 409 S Kenyon Dr, Tucson, 85710-1043

**Desert Violets,** Susan Merski, 2511 N Desert Ave, Tucson, 85712-2403

**Dottie's African Violets,** John & Dorothy Greer, 7462 E Desert Aire Dr, Tucson, 85730-3800

**Kachina AV and Supplies,** Mark R Lort, 15818 N 52nd St, Scottsdale, 85254-1707

### ARKANSAS

**Sonja's Violets,** Sonja Holm, 15980 Warden Rd, Omaha, 72662-9107

### CALIFORNIA

**Leslie Jones,** PO Box 839, Yreka, 96097-0839

**Melvin J Robey,** 53400 Eisenhower Dr, La Quinta, 92253-3466

**Arnold W Mueller,** 1522 Sunset Dr, Vista, 92083-6533

**AV Enterprises Press,** Pauline Bartholomew, 1404 N Tustin Ave Apt J4, Santa Ana, 92705-8632

**Donnie's African Violets,** Donnie Barnes, 2563 Richert Ave, Clovis, 93611-6034

**Maril Products, Inc.,** Anne Whitehair, 320 W 6th St, Tustin, 92780-4332

**Marteal Ltd,** Dyna-gro, 1065 Broadway Ave, San Pablo, 94806-2260

**Mighty Minis, Jean Stokes,** 7318 Sahara Ct, Sacramento, 95828-3905

**Oyama Planters Inc,** George C Oyama, 1661 Pine St Apt 732, San Francisco Towers, San Francisco,

**The Velvet Leaf,** Lynn Lombard, 790 Ridgecrest Dr, Colfax, 95713-9218

**Violet Perfection By Gini,** Gini McCanne, 1420 Oxford Ave, Claremont, 91711-3461

## COLORADO

**African Violet Pots By Jim and Martha,** Jim Davis, 125 Boneyard Dr, Westcliffe, 81252-9682

**Hoover's Hybrids,** Darryl Hoover, 5596 Ponderosa Dr, Parker, 80134-5746

**The Violet Showcase,** Douglas Crispin, 3147 S Broadway, Englewood, 80110-2423

## CONNECTICUT

**Verilux, Inc.,** PO Box 2937, Stamford, 06906-0937

## FLORIDA

**Andrew's Violets 'n' Things,** Linda Andrews, 2801 Frontier Dr, Kissimmee, 34744-9301

**Duval's Violets and Crafts,** Ann L & Armand Duval, 8401 Briesse Ln, Pensacola, 32514-3812

**Violets From the Starrs,** George & Estelle Starr, 2602 Graupera St, Pensacola, 32507-1637

**Violets4Sale,** Nancy Blanton, 5435 Jean Dr, Orlando, 32822-7103

## GEORGIA

**P J's Violets,** Joan Cumpston, 219 Sunset Dr, Warner Robins, 31088-4170

**Travis' Violets,** Travis Davis, PO Box 42, Ochlocknee, 31773-0042

## ILLINOIS

**Prairie Violets,** Linda Stickney, PO Box 313, Maroa, 61756-0313

## INDIANA

**Out Of Africa,** Gary S Mikita, 2842 Brown St, Portage, 46368-3918

## IOWA

**Fuzzy Plants, Inc.,** David Thompson, 461 Progress Ave, Waterloo, 50701-5615

## KANSAS

**McKinney's Glassehouse,** James B. McKinney, 5720 Sullivan Rd, At Neff Lodge and Gardens, Wichita, 67204-1942

**Selective Violets,** Pat Richards, 15105 S Seminole Dr, Olathe, 66062-3004

## LOUISIANA

**Bayou Violets,** Genelle & Al Armstrong, 1313 Gardenia Dr, Metairie, 70005-11522

## MARYLAND

**The Behnke Nurseries Co,** 11300 Baltimore Ave, PO Box 290, Beltsville, 20705-1923

**Violet Rainbow,** Alice Bair, 1515 Bachmans Valley Rd, Westminster, 21158-3201

## MASSACHUSETTS

**Cape Cod Violets**, John Cook, 28 Minot St, Falmouth, 02540-2840

## MICHIGAN

**Indoor Gardening Supplies**, Tina & Paul Dickhart, PO Box 527, Dexter, 48130-0527

## MINNESOTA

**Midland Violets**, Donald Ness, 3667 Midland Ave, White Bear Lake, 55110-7307

**Source Tech Bio Inc.**, 7449 Cahill Rd # 150, Edina, 55439-2748

## MISSOURI

**Dave's Violets**, David Harris, 1372 S Kentwood Ave, Springfield, 65804-0220

**Dunlap Enterprises**, Gary N Dunlap, 4189 Jarvis Rd, Hillsboro, 63050-2708

**Schultz Company**, 13260 Corporate Exchange Dr, Bridgeton, 63044-3720

## MONTANA

**Gainan's Garden Center**, Mick Gainan, 810 Bench Blvd, Billings, 59105-3350

## NEBRASKA

**Kent's Flowers**, Kent & Joyce Stork, 2501 E 23rd Ave S, Fremont, 68025-2478

**The Violet Showroom**, Shannon Ahlman, 819 Diers Ave Ste 8, Grand Island, 68803-4957

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

**Chestnut Country Violets**, Lisa DiMambro, 182 Old Chester Tpke, Chester, 03036-4016

**Not Just Violes**, Terri Seymour, 108 Deer Hill Rd, Brentwood, 03833-6511

## NEW YORK

**Edward Janosick**, 1599 W Settlement Rd # 1, Roxbury, 12474-1208

**Richard M Wasmund**, 1284 90th St, Niagara Falls, 14304-2621

**Barbara Whiting Ellison**, 258 Shanty Creek Rd, Central Square, 13036-3416

**Baker Greenhouse**, Paul Davidson, 1113 Herkimer Rd, Utica, 13502-2706

**Champions African Violets**, Ethel W. Champion, 8848 Van Hoesen Rd, Clay, 13041-9604

**Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses Inc**, Paul Sorano, PO Box 249, Dolgeville, 13329-0249

**Rob's Violets**, Ralph Robinson, PO Box 9, Naples, 14512-0009

**Scott's Miracle-Gro Products Inc**, 800 Port Washington Blvd, Port Washington, 11050-3720

**Smith's Country Cottage AV's**, Aileen Smith, 109 Ogden Parma Townline Rd, Spencerport, 14559-1623

**UAReSoBeautiful**, Georgette Yandolino, 451 W End Ave, New York, 10024-5329

**Violet Venture**, Fayanne B Wagman, 52 Harper Dr, Pittsford, 14534-3104

**Violets By Appointment**, Bill Paauwe, 45 3rd St, West Sayville, 11796-1109

**Violets Fun Photo Journal**, Olive Ma Robinson, PO Box 9, Naples, 14512-0009

## NORTH CAROLINA

**African Violets By Fredericks, Inc.**, Alyce Droege, PO Box 1416, Franklin, 28744-1416

**Bluebird Greenhouse**, Elizabeth Glembocki, 4821 Jessie Dr, Apex, 27502-8858

**Carousel of Violets**, Bonnie N Cheek, 1403 S Stratford Rd # C, Winston Salem, 27103-2920

## OHIO

**Pat's Patch**, Pat Hancock, PO Box 8085, West Chester, 45069-8085

**Victoria's Sign Of the Dove**, Blanche Victoria Mercaldi, 1826 Russell Ave, Springfield, 45506-2949

**Water-Well Planters**, John Black, 25840 Chardon Rd, Cleveland, 44143-1202

## OKLAHOMA

**A New Leaf Inc**, Kim Falcon, 2306 S 1st Pl, Broken Arrow, 74012-7137

**McCawley's African Violets**, Edna R. McCawley, 1721 S Fulton Ave, Tulsa, 74112-6929

## OREGON

**Oneel's Ceramics**, Violet Oneel, 14915 SE Kronberg Ave, Portland, 97267-2850

## PENNSYLVANIA

**Susan Shields Reis**, 1181 William St, State College, 16801-6310

**Tinari Greenhouses**, Anne Tinari, 2325 Valley Rd #190, Huntingdon Valley, 19006-6007

**Violet Gallery**, Mahlen Petry, 1590 Cranberry Rd, York Springs, 17372-8851

**Violet Rainbow II**, Melody Hartman, 715 Kames Hill Rd, Columbia, 17512-8422

**Violets and More**, Naomi Martin, 3217 State Line Rd, Waynesboro, 17268-9551

## TENNESSEE

**Holtkamp Greenhouses Inc**, Reinhold Holtkamp, PO Box 78565, Nashville, 37207-8565

**The Garden Angel**, Sandra Lister, 261 Ironwood Dr, Kodak, 37764-2160

## TEXAS

**Virginia May Bennock**, 1630 Hillcrest Dr, San Antonio, 78228-2932

**Acree Creations**, Yvonne Acree, 3235 Lockmoor Ln, Dallas, 75220-1631

**African Violet Shop**, Lenora Munk, 2015 Bauer Dr, Houston, 77080-5524

**Hill Country African Violets**, Ken Froboese, 32005 IH 10 W, Boerne, 78006-9212

**Jo's Violets**, Jo Anne Schrimsher, 2205 College Dr, Victoria, 77901-4474

**K-M Media**, Glen & Ivanora Kertz, 3484 Pheasant St, Orange, 77630-2044

**Pleasant Hill African Violets**, Ruth Goeke, 4851 Pieper Rd, Brenham, 77833-7072

**Sandy Sanders**, 1034 Rayburn Dr, San Antonio, 78221-1446  
**Shirley's House of Violets**, Shirley L. Sanders, 1034 Rayburn  
Dr, San Antonio, 78221-1446  
**Swifts'**, June Swift, PO Box 181521, Dallas, 75218-8521  
**Volkmann Bros Greenhouse**, Walter Volkmann, PO Box  
141289, Dallas, 75214-1289

#### **VIRGINIA**

**Arts and Crafts By Eloisa**, Eloisa D. Wilson, PO Box 220114,  
Chantilly, 20153-0114

#### **WASHINGTON**

**Alannah's African Violets**, Alannah Regan, PO Box 2,  
Danville, 99121-0002  
**Henry's Plant Farm**, 4522 132nd St SE, Snohomish,  
98296-8916

#### **WISCONSIN**

**Belisle's Violet House**, Marcia Belisle, 4041 N Metnik Rd,  
Ojibwa, 54862-4132

x



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

*Buckeye  
Blithe Spirit*

*Exhibited by: Joanne Baker-Pruner*

*Hybridized by: P. Hancock*

*Standard*



*Sinningia cardinalis  
'Innocence'*

*Exhibited by: Paul Kroll*

# Shows and Judges



**Bill Foster**  
*Shows and Judges Committee*  
3610 Gray Drive  
Mesquite, TX 75150  
email: [bpfooster@airmail.net](mailto:bpfooster@airmail.net)

The convention and show in Washington, D. C. was great! Gary Gordon, Mary Boland, Sharon Long, Susan Barbi, and all their committee members did an outstanding job. The show was an outstanding array of beauty. The credit for that goes to ALL of the exhibitors. Everyone cannot win the top awards but anyone who exhibits is a winner!

Do you realize how long it takes to become a Master Judge? One must serve as a student judge for three years, six years as an advanced judge, and fifteen years as a senior judge. Please join me in congratulating the following judges for twenty-four years of growing and showing to earn their Master Judges Certificates. They are: Hilda Lewis and Beverly Williams of Canada, Peg Phythyon of Alabama, James Smith of Florida, Jackie Jones of Iowa, Patricia Hart and James Britton of Missouri, Elaine Click, Hortense Pittman, Aloha Rhodes, and Trish Wright of Texas, and John (Jack) Wilson of Virginia. We would also like to welcome Winston Goretsky of Canada, as a new teacher.

## Here are some of the questions from the Judges' Breakfast...

*Q. If a pinwheel blossom has a fantasy edge, what class would it go in?*

A. It would go in the "edged" class. Edge overrides color.

*Q. Should a new exhibitor be discouraged from entering plants that might receive red or white ribbons?*

A. All new exhibitors should be encouraged to enter plants even if they may receive less than a blue ribbon. Having a member as an exhibitor is probably more important to the show than a blue ribbon would be. It is nice to win a Standard Show or Standard Show Achievement Award, but we must remember the purpose and value of a show includes stimulating the general public to cultivate the hobby and to educate the public in propagation, culture,

and the decorative uses of the African violet. The public is just not that interested in what color ribbon the plants receive.

*Q. How can we exhibit microminis when there is no class for them?*

A. Exhibit them as miniatures. Micromini is just a description of a miniature.

*Q. In a recent Affiliate show, 'Sport of Jade' won Best-in-Show. Can this be renamed?*

A. The Master Variety List does not show 'Jade' or 'Sport of Jade'. Hopefully the judges were familiar with 'Jade' and this was a true sport and not just a plant not blooming true. All sports should be entered in the new introduction classes. If it was not entered in these classes, then it would be assumed that the name is already 'Sport of Jade'. If it was entered in the sport class, it can be given another name.

*Q. Is there a chance that Best-in-Class could count more toward sweepstakes? They mean more.*

A. Page 47 of the HANDBOOK states that sweepstakes is an award for the most blue ribbons, so the answer is NO.

*Q. May an AVSA member enter collections in an Affiliate show even if they are not members of that club?*

A. Yes, technically. Most schedules state that only club members may enter, but an AVSA member who does not belong to the club may enter ONLY the AVSA collection classes. Should one choose to do this, it would be better to make arrangements in advance and not just show up with their collection.

*Q. How can a plant win best new introduction when it has been entered in several shows?*



A. AVSA rules allow a plant to be entered as a new introduction once at a local Affiliate, once at a state or regional show, and once at a national convention show.

Q. *What is the best way to attain fair judging in design and the other gesneriads classes?*

A. Be selective in selecting judges and making judging assignments. Select judges for design that actually enter design classes. Likewise, only judges who grow and show the other gesneriads should judge in the other gesneriad classes. This is the ideal situation, but if this is not possible, strive to have at least one or two judges on the panel that have experience in these areas. If inexperienced judges are asked to judge in these areas, it is their

duty to inform the judge's chair of their lack of knowledge in those areas.

We will continue with the questions next time.

### Attention Teachers and Senior Judges

As of August 1, 2002, Meredith Hall has a new address: 1206 Hilltop Run, Lindale, TX 75771. Her e-mail address will remain the same. Use this address when requesting exams or approval of exams for judging schools. Also, use this address for any questions about senior exams. Senior judges' exams for 2002 should have already been requested. If there is a problem in contacting Meredith, you may contact Bill Foster and he will contact her.

## Increase in Membership Dues

The AVSA Board of Directors recently voted to increase the costs for AVSA membership. These increases will become effective on October 1, 2002. As you are aware, the cost of membership just barely pays for the printing and mailing of our AVM. While we

regret having to raise membership fees, with the continuing increases in paper and mailing costs, we reached a point where our financial auditors advised us to adjust our membership fees. The following fees apply:

Life Membership	- \$300
International Life Membership	- \$350
Individual Memberships	- \$25
Associate Memberships	- no change - \$10
International Individual Memberships	- \$27.50
International Associate Memberships	- no change - \$11.50
Commercial Membership	- \$37
International Commercial Membership	- \$38.75
Affiliate Membership	- \$27
International Affiliate Membership	- \$29.50
Affiliated State, Regional and Council	- \$27

### THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC. STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND NET ASSETS - MODIFIED CASH BASIS DECEMBER 31, 2001

#### ASSETS

##### CURRENT ASSETS:

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 30,507
Investments	169,955
Miscellaneous receivables	196
Inventory	13,895
Prepaid expenses	11,123
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>225,676</b>

##### PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, net of

accumulated depreciation of \$11,035	93,113
--------------------------------------	--------

##### OTHER ASSETS:

Reorganization costs net of accumulated amortization of \$4,880	-
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##### PERMANENT RESTRICTED ASSETS:

Investments	32,500
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$351,289</b>

#### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

##### CURRENT LIABILITIES:

Payroll and sales tax liabilities	\$ 1,647
Deferred advertising income	2,375
Deferred membership fees	\$ 82,000
Deferred life memberships	110,135
Deferred income, future conventions	1,340
Deferred revenue - other	-
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>197,497</b>

##### NEW ASSETS:

Unrestricted:	
Operating	30,895
Board designated - Convention	24,348
Board designated - Life Membership	1,876
Board designated - Boyce Edens	31,325
Board designated - Hudson Awards	1,525
Property and Equipment	93,113
<b>Total unrestricted net assets</b>	<b>121,292</b>
Temporarily restricted	1
Permanently restricted	32,500
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>153,792</b>
<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<b>\$351,289</b>



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

## *Shades of Blush*

Exhibited by: **Deborah Sanders**

Hybridized by: **G. T. Smith**

*Smith Country Cottage*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*

## *Wisteria*

*Best Vintage Violet*

*2002 AVSA National Show*

*Exhibited by: **Stephen Phillips***

*Hybridized by: **F. Tinari***

*Large*



**Janice Bruns**  
1220 Stratford Lane  
Hanover Park, IL 60133  
jbruns@attbi.com

On behalf of AVSA and all its members, I would like to thank Iris Keating for serving the past *twelve years* as Plant Registrar. As the new Plant Registrar, I only hope that I can live up to the high standards she has set. Iris has agreed to continue to serve on the committee, so I will be able to rely on her expertise and good humor to get me through the challenge.

A name reservation costs \$1.00 and is valid for two years, after which time it may be extended two years for an additional \$1.00. Registration of the plant is \$5.00 unless completed within the reservation period, in which case the balance is then \$4.00. Please make check payable to AVSA.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Rosemary Regoni – N. Chili, NY**

- \***Ro's Vintage Velvet** (9115) 4/8/02 (R. Regoni)  
Semidouble vivid violet-red pansy/white ruffled edge.  
Medium green, quilted. **Standard**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Chris Leppard – Oxford, MI**

- \***Chris' Little Obsession** (9116) 4/12/02 (C. Leppard)  
Semidouble-double white pansy. Light-medium green,  
heart-shaped, quilted. **Miniature**

\*\*\*\*\*

**John Brownlie – Mississauga, Ontario, Canada**

- \***Aca's Eloise** (9117) 4/20/02 (J. Brownlie) Single-semidouble red and white pansy. Light green, plain, quilted. **Semiminiature**
- \***Aca's Megan** (9118) 4/20/02 (J. Brownlie/Guelph University) Semidouble-double light pink ruffled star/thin white-green edge. Light green, quilted, glossy, wavy, serrated. **Large**
- \***Green Dragon** (9119) 4/20/02 (J. Brownlie) Semidouble-double white star/green edge. **Variegated** green and white, plain, pointed. **Semiminiature**

- \***Guelph's Christmas** (9120) 4/20/02 (J. Brownlie/Guelph University) Semidouble-double fuchsia large frilled star/thin white-green edge. Medium green, quilted, glossy, wavy, serrated/red back. **Large**
- \***Guelph's Dynamite** (9121) 4/20/02 (J. Brownlie/Guelph University) Semidouble-double pink ruffled star/variable fuchsia fantasy markings; thin white-green edge. Light green, quilted, glossy, wavy, serrated. **Large**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Reinhold Holtkamp – Nashville, TN**

- \***Optimara Chico** (9122) 5/29/02 (Holtkamp) Single white sticktite pansy/wide blue ruffled edge. Medium green, plain, glossy, hairy, scalloped. **Standard**
- \***Optimara EverGrace** (9123) 5/29/02 (Holtkamp) Single white sticktite frilled pansy/variable medium blue eye, band; light green edge. Medium green, heart-shaped, glossy, hairy, wavy, scalloped. **Large**
- \***Optimara EverHarmony** (9124) 5/29/02 (Holtkamp) Single white to pale pink sticktite frilled pansy/variable darker eye, band; light green edge. Medium green, plain, glossy, hairy, wavy, scalloped. **Standard**
- \***Optimara EverLove** (9125) 5/29/02 (Holtkamp) Single purple-red sticktite frilled/wide white to light pink band, light green edge. Dark green, heart-shaped, glossy, hairy, wavy, scalloped/red back. **Standard**
- \***Optimara EverPraise** (9126) 5/29/02 (Holtkamp) Single medium blue sticktite pansy/light green frilled edge. Medium green, heart-shaped, glossy, hairy, wavy, scalloped. **Large**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Ralph Robinson – Naples, NY**

- \***Rob's Mango Mongo** (9127) 5/31/02 (R. Robinson) Semidouble coral-pink large star/ivory eye. **Crown variegated** medium-dark green, white and beige, quilted/red back. **Semiminiature**

- \***Rob's Simply Susan** (9128) 5/31/02 (R. Robinson) Double dark pink large star/wide white frilled edge. **Variegated** medium-dark green, round/red back. **Miniature**
- \***Rob's Squeeze Toy** (9129) 5/31/02 (R. Robinson) Semidouble dark coral-pink. **Crown variegated** dark green, white, pink, and beige/red back. **Semiminiature**

\*\*\*\*

**Olive Ma Robinson – Naples, NY**

- \***Ma's Country Girl** (9130) 5/31/02 (O. Robinson) Double blush white to light pink star/blue fantasy. **Variegated** medium green and white, plain, quilted. **Standard**
- \***Ma's Frog Land** (9131) 5/31/02 (O. Robinson) Semidouble white star/green edge. **Variegated** light-medium green and white, pointed. **Standard**
- \***Ma's Melody Girl** (9132) 5/31/02 (O. Robinson) Semidouble coral star/raspberry fantasy, band; thin white-green edge. Dark green, quilted girl foliage. **Standard**

- \***Ma's Pillow Talk** (9133) 5/31/02 (O. Robinson) Double white frilled pansy. **Variegated** light-medium green and cream, serrated. **Standard**
- \***Ma's Second Thoughts** (9134) 5/31/02 (O. Robinson) Semidouble dark pink pansy/white edge. **Variegated** medium green and white, quilted, serrated. **Standard**
- \***Ma's Silk Flower** (9135) 5/31/02 (O. Robinson) Semidouble light lavender-pink pansy. **Variegated** light-medium green and cream, plain. **Standard**
- \***Ma's Silver Dream** (9136) 5/31/02 (O. Robinson) Semidouble white/variable blue eye, green edge. **Variegated** medium green and white, quilted, wavy, serrated. **Standard**

#### NAME RESERVATIONS

**Susan Shaw – Loveland, CO**

\* Cutie Patootie \* Peek-a-Blue \* Susan's Sweetheart



# Southern-Style Hybridizing of African Violets

by Dr. Jeff Smith

One of the questions I've been asked from time to time is if the region of the country you live in affects hybridizing efforts with African violets. Since my first attempts at hybridizing were made in Oklahoma, and I now live in Indiana, I would have to say that there is such an effect. Here are some of the climactic differences I've experienced.

Climate seems to affect two different aspects of hybridizing: the seed set during pollination and the maturation of the seed pods. Pollination is the placement of pollen from one flower onto the stigma of another. Since African violets don't usually shed their pollen, the hybridizer must break open the yellow-colored pollen sac, or anther.

The transfer of pollen can be done with a paintbrush, toothpick, or simply by carrying the anther over and touching it to the stigma. The stigma is the tip of the pistil located in the center of the flower. When the stigma is receptive, it will often look shiny or wet. Climate appears to affect the growth of the pollen from the stigma to the egg sacs at the base. Specifically, I often found that humidity appeared to play a role. If the air was dry, as usual for much of the year in Oklahoma, seed set would rarely happen.

Under more humid conditions, seed set was often successful. Pollinating on rainy days gave the best results. Spraying or misting the plants helped, but the results were

often erratic. On rainy days, I could often be found running around the plant room looking for flowers to pollinate. Of course, the plants I wanted to cross did not always have flowers open.

The second effect of climate was on seed pod maturation. African violets take a long time to mature their seed. If the seed pod doesn't stay on the plant for at least four months, the seed will normally be infertile and won't germinate. The problem was that if pollination were accomplished in the spring (when it rained the most), the seed pods often dried up when the hot summer weather arrived. The best way to avoid the problem was to keep the plants in a climate controlled area, such as in a room with air conditioning. However, air conditioning removes the humidity from the air, which makes it difficult to get further pollination to take on the plant, creating a vicious cycle for the pollinator.

Eventually, I learned to make the majority of my crosses during the late fall. The temperatures were cooler, the humidity would be higher, and I could use the cooler winter temperatures to get the seed pods to mature. If you are trying to hybridize in the south, you might need to take humidity and temperature into consideration in order to be successful.

*From the LSVC Newsletter, Texas*



*The African Violet Show in Moscow, Russia*



*Vladimir Kalgin  
AVSA 2002 Convention  
Washington, DC, USA*



*The winner - Natalie Puminova*



*Waterfalls and African violets*



*Our Team, the Saintpaulia Society of Russia*



# The First African Violet Show Sponsored by the Saintpaulia Society of Russia

by Vladimir Kalgin • Russia

The Saintpaulia Society of Russia (SSR) held its first show in Moscow from April 28 – May 12 this year. For African violet growers outside of Russia, with dozens of shows held each year with hundreds of exhibits, it could be difficult to understand the uniqueness of the SSR show for Russia. Until this year even in Moscow with a population of 10 million, the public interested in African violets could visit just a couple of small shows with several dozens of plants. Very few club members could participate in the shows. We have never had judged shows. There were no commercial growers, mass violet producers, or small producers of hobby growers.

A group of enthusiasts that knew each other through the Internet, decided to make some changes. There were twelve of us when we had our first meeting in December, 2001. We decided to form a society that could organize regular meetings and shows, encourage members to grow better plants, educate them in growing culture, exchange information and experience, and attract the public in growing African violets.

Since January of this year, we have had regular meetings once a month with lectures, new members presenting themselves, and bylaws discussions. Our main goal for this year was to organize a new type of show with judges, awards, and design and educational exhibits where any member could exhibit a plant. Of course, we had to learn a lot because none of us had visited an African violet show in the United States before. We have gotten very useful information from the AVSA web site, the *AVSA Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors and Judges, 50 Years With AVSA* (the 50th Anniversary book), and some other sources.

Until April we had more than fifty members in Moscow. We have selected judges and committee chairmen among advanced growers and hybridizers.

There were two possible facilities for the show. One of them was a building located close to a very famous place in Moscow called Victory Park, where people come on weekends and holidays with their families and friends. It took us about a week to prepare and decorate the hall of 3000 square feet for the show.

Violets were displayed on tables with beautiful waterfalls seen through the windows. It was the first time people in Moscow could see this kind of African violet show. Our intention was to hold the show for two weeks to allow as many people as possible to attend. The weather in the beginning of May in Moscow was just perfect for African violets. A lot of them that came to the show in full bloom stayed without

visible changes until the show was closed.

There were about 300 exhibits in the show, including amateur and commercial horticulture exhibits, design exhibits, educational exhibits, and display tables. The following are some of the winners.

Miss Violet - Spring 2002 Award was given to Natalie Puminova for her hybrid, 'Ian - Ulibka' (Ian - Smile), a very attractive variety, single pink ruffled star with white eye and edge.

Best African Violet in Show was 'Pat Tracey' (Tracey), won by Katherine Panova.

Best Standard Collection Award was won by Natalie Puminova for her hybrids.

Best Fantasy variety was 'Vesuvius', a large plant with lots of huge, single dark purple blooms, red-purple fantasy, won by its hybridizer Eugenie Arhipov.

Not only judges, but also the attendees, voted for their favorite violets. The top vote-getter was 'Pink Amiss' (Eyerdom) exhibited by Irina Kormilitsina.

One of the sections was dedicated to varieties of Russian hybridizers. Best African violet in this section was 'Zima Ulibaetsia' (Winter is Smiling), exhibited by Eugenie Shishkin, a double pink with fuchsia, white/green edge. The famous Russian hybridizer, Boris Makuni, introduced this variety. He passed away on June 4th of this year. In his memory, all the SSR members are encouraged to grow his hybrids for the next show where there will be special awards for Makuni's hybrids.

The show received good publicity. It was on one of the national TV channels. There was also an article by the well-known author, Tatiana Klevenkaia, that was published in the oldest Russian magazine, *Floriculture*.

After the show, my wife Tatiana and I visited the AVSA 2002 Convention and Show in Washington, D.C. It was really an excellent opportunity to learn how AVSA works, and how the show was organized. We also met the AVSA officers, hybridizers, commercial members, and were able to buy beautiful plants. The Saintpaulia Society of Russia became an AVSA affiliate club.

Now the Saintpaulia Society of Russia has about 250 members, as well as twenty-five regional affiliate clubs in Russian cities and some of the former Soviet Union republics. We are going to publish our magazine to teach judges, to help our affiliate organize regional shows, and to support Russian hybridizers. We hope that more and more people in Russia will cultivate the hobby of growing African violets.

# Keep Them Warm

by Reg Townsend

During the winter we all have the problem of keeping warm. Our violets are no different. The following suggestions for caring for your violets may be of some help to you during the colder weather.

When the temperature at night starts to drop, run your lights from 10pm until 10am. If you think the plants need some time in the dark, close the blinds and the door. This will also keep the warm air in. In addition, you can enclose your lightstand with plastic sheeting. This will increase the humidity and retain the warm air.

We have a small column oil heater that comes on at 10 o'clock at night and turns off at 6 o'clock in the morning.

It helps to keep the plants a little dryer during cold periods. This can be done by using a smaller diameter wick or by watering a little less. Always use tepid water when watering your plants, as water that is colder than air temperature will cause marks on the foliage.

If you grow on a windowsill, you could remove the plant from the windowsill or place a sheet of cardboard or something similar between the plants and the glass. The glass can get very cold at night.

Closing the plant room and enclosing the stand may increase the possibility of mildew on the plants. Give them as much room as possible and, if necessary, spray with an appropriate substance.

When doing any repotting in the cold weather, use the mold system. This causes very little disturbance to the root system and reduces the chance of any shock to the plant.

Mold potting is when you take a larger pot than the one the plant is in and place a little soil in the bottom, then take a pot the same size as the one the plant is currently growing in and sit it inside the larger pot. Now fill in between the two pots with damp mix and carefully remove the smaller pot. You will have a perfect mold of the rootball of your plant, which can be slipped out of its pot and dropped into place in the larger pot without disturbing the roots at all. Tap to settle the mix slightly, top up the soil if necessary, and water lightly.

Remember, violets like much the same conditions as we do - if you are warm your violet will probably be happy too!

From *The African Violet News*,  
Official Journal of the AV-Gesneriad Society of NSW, Inc.



## Growing Violets from A Leaf



by Sue Hodges

*When is the best time to start leaves?*

Spring and summer are the ideal times to strike violet leaves. You can still have success at other times, provided that you can keep your leaves in a warm place and give them good light.

*What size pot should I start a leaf in?*

A small pot is best, and a starter pot or even a cut-down polystyrene cup will suffice. Some growers like to enclose their leaves in a plastic bag or small terrarium until they have grown roots, but this is not strictly necessary.

*What kind of starter mix is best?*

Your usual African violet mix is fine or you can use half vermiculite and half perlite mixed together. Leaves will root in water, although this can make the process longer, as the roots will have to adjust when they are transferred to the potting mix.

*Do you need to use hormone powder?*

Rooting hormone is not usually necessary for violets. Leaves strike readily, and some people feel that the hormone may cause leaves to rot unless it is used in minute quantities.

*How many plants will I get from a mother leaf, and should I pot them all?*

The number of plantlets produced will vary depending on the variety, the age of the leaf, and your care and conditions.

Sometimes you may only get one plantlet but up to eight or ten is not unusual. Unless you want a large number of the same plant, you only need to plant up the largest, healthiest baby plants. If the leaf is from a cultivar that is unstable, such as some fantasies, you should pot up more than one baby to ensure that your new plant will bloom true to name.

You can trim away smaller plantlets as they emerge and leave one or two of the first, strongest plantlets to develop. It is best to leave plantlets until they are at least two inches tall before you pot them up separately.

*How long will it take to produce a flowering plant?*

Leaves will take six to eight weeks to produce babies in ideal conditions. It will probably take about another eight weeks before the baby plants are large enough to be separated and potted up individually. Then you will need to wait about another eight weeks for your plant to produce its first flowers. These times are a guide only, your growing conditions, the season, and the particular violet you are growing will all be factors.

Good Growing!

From *The African Violet News*,  
Official Journal of the AV-Gesneriad Society of NSW, Inc.



# Planting by Moon Signs

## Moon in Aries

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds, pests, etc., and for cultivating.

## Moon in Taurus

Productive and moist, earthy and feminine. Used for planting many crops, particularly potatoes and root crops, and when hardness is important. Also used for lettuce, cabbage, and similar leafy vegetables.

## Moon in Gemini

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds and pests, and for cultivation.

## Moon in Cancer

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. This is the most productive sign, used extensively for planting and irrigation.

## Moon in Leo

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. This is the most barren sign, used only for killing weeds and for cultivation.

## Moon in Virgo

Barren and moist, earthy and feminine. Good for cultivation and destroying weeds and pests.

## Moon in Libra

Semi-fruitful and moist, airy and masculine. Used for planting many crops and producing good pulp growth and roots. A very good sign for flowers and vines. Also used for seeding hay, corn fodder, etc.

## Moon in Scorpio

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Nearly as productive as Cancer; used for the same purposes. Especially good for vine growth and sturdiness.

## Moon in Sagittarius

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for planting onions, seeding hay, and for cultivation.

## Moon in Capricorn

Productive and dry, earthy and feminine. Used for planting potatoes, tubers, etc.

## Moon in Aquarius

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for cultivation and destroying noxious growths, weeds, and pests.

## Moon in Pisces

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Used along with Cancer and Scorpio, especially good for root growth.

September Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Sun. 4:14 pm	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	4th
2 Mon.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	4th
3 Tue. 9:36 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	4th
4 Wed.	Leo	Fire	Barren	4th
5 Thu. 11:16 pm	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th
6 Fri.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	New 10:10 pm
7 Sat. 10:57 pm	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	1st
8 Sun.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	1st
9 Mon. 10:48 pm	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	1st
10 Tue.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	1st
11 Wed.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	1st
12 Thu. 12:44 am	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	1st
13 Fri.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	2nd 1:08 pm
14 Sat. 5:47 am	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	2nd
15 Sun.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	2nd
16 Mon. 1:54 pm	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd
17 Tue.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd
18 Wed.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd
19 Thu. 12:18 am	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	2nd
20 Fri.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	2nd
21 Sat. 12:11 pm	Aries	Fire	Barren	Full 8:59 am
22 Sun.	Aries	Fire	Barren	3rd
23 Mon.	Aries	Fire	Barren	3rd
24 Tue. 12:55 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	3rd
25 Wed.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	3rd
26 Thu. 1:26 pm	Gemini	Air	Barren	3rd
27 Fri.	Gemini	Air	Barren	3rd
28 Sat.	Gemini	Air	Barren	3rd
29 Sun. 12:01 am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	4th 12:03 pm
30 Mon.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	4th

October Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Tue. 6:58 am	Leo	Fire	Barren	4th
2 Wed.	Leo	Fire	Barren	4th
3 Thu. 9:52 am	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th
4 Fri.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th
5 Sat. 9:51 am	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	4th
6 Sun.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	New 6:18 am
7 Mon. 8:57 am	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	1st
8 Tue.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	1st
9 Wed. 9:21 am	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	1st
10 Thu.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	1st
11 Fri. 12:45 pm	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	1st
12 Sat.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	1st
13 Sun. 7:51 pm	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd 12:33 am
14 Mon.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd
15 Tue.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd
16 Wed. 6:07 am	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	2nd
17 Thu.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	2nd
18 Fri. 6:13 pm	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd
19 Sat.	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd
20 Sun.	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd
21 Mon. 6:57 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	Full 2:20 am
22 Tue.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	3rd
23 Wed. 7:17 pm	Gemini	Air	Barren	3rd
24 Thu.	Gemini	Air	Barren	3rd
25 Fri.	Gemini	Air	Barren	3rd
26 Sat. 6:10 am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	3rd
27 Sun.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	3rd
28 Mon. 2:20 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	3rd
29 Tue.	Leo	Fire	Barren	4th 12:28 am
30 Wed. 6:59 pm	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th
31 Thu.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th

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# Annual Library Message



Anne Nicholas • 3113 Deerfield • Denton, TX 76208 • Email: RandANICHO@aol.com



Anne Nicholas

Your AVSA Library Committee has been busy! There have been many requests to update and upgrade the materials in the AVSA Library in Beaumont. The committee has assessed the current offerings and begun the process of improving and supplementing the materials available.

The 2002 Convention was spectacular! Those folks in DC did a beautiful job of presenting a gorgeous array of plants. First of all, the committee thanks the Show Chairman, Sharon Long, and her local committees. Seven very gifted photographers donated their time and talents: Harry Branson (PA), Marjorie Bullard (TX), Wayne Coley (VA), Tom Glembocki (NC), Rex Pershing (IA), Barbara Stewart (VA), and Harry Weber (CO).

The AVSA Library has a complete slide show from the 2002 AVSA Convention and Show available for rental. It will be accompanied by both an audio cassette and a written narrative.

AVSA will also offer a CD-ROM of the 2002 national show. This CD, by Tom Glembocki, features dynamic digital shots of both horticulture and design

exhibits plus candid shots of the show and sales room. The CD will be available for purchase from the AVSA office for a cost of \$9.95 (international price = \$14.95).

A slide show presenting "The Best of the 90's" is now available for rental, featuring the top winners of the national shows from the 1990's. The library will retain a copy of shows from each year for members' viewing pleasure.

We are seeking new written materials. Many affiliates have already sent new yearbooks and schedules to be included in informational packets available from the library. These packets are helpful to clubs looking for new and different programming and schedule ideas. If your club has a good yearbook, newsletter, or show schedule to share, please send them to me.

New video presentations are still needed. Affiliates that have a good "how-to" video presentation, please contact me.

The committee will continue to work during the year to maintain and upgrade the AVSA Library offerings. Many thanks to Jenny Daugeureau, Administrative Coordinator, and Amy Sanders, Office Secretary, who spend countless hours sending out these materials to affiliates and individuals around the country.

The following is a list of materials available from the AVSA Library:

## RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR USE OF AVSA LIBRARY MATERIALS

Library materials are available for use by AVSA members and affiliates in good standing, subject to the following rules and regulations.

### REQUEST FOR MATERIALS

Send requests to the AVSA Office, 2375 North St. Beaumont, Texas 77702. If you do not have an AVSA order form, please include in your request (1) Name of affiliate, (2) Name of person ordering and person's membership number, (3) Shipping address, (4) Name of slide program or packet, (5) Whether or not cassette (where available) is desired, (6) Date to be shown. Order forms are included in shipment for future use.

### SLIDE PROGRAMS - VIDEO TAPES

1. Make request for reservation three (3) months in advance of date desired with information outlined above. Give first, second, and third choices of slide programs for each reservation date.
2. Slide programs and video tapes are shipped using a special shipping box. Please use the special box to return the programs to the AVSA office immediately after scheduled reserved date. Return by UPS or First Class Mail only. For First Class, we request that you insure the program for \$50.00. If you use UPS, the package is automatically insured for \$100.00. For members in other countries: please return programs postpaid by the safest and most expeditious postal means available.

**A \$5.00 PER WEEK PENALTY WILL BE ASSESSED FOR ANY PROGRAM NOT POSTMARKED WITHIN FOUR (4) DAYS AFTER SCHEDULED RESERVED DATE, UNLESS OTHER ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE.**

Return programs to:  
AVSA OFFICE  
2375 NORTH STREET  
BEAUMONT, TEXAS 77702

3. Special requests for two or more slide programs for the same date may be made and will be filled when possible, but such requests are not encouraged because of the great demand for slide programs and the limited number available.
4. Cost of slide program with cassette is \$10.00 and cost of slide program without cassette is \$8.00. Only those slide programs in the descriptive list with a "(C)" after the titles have cassettes. Those programs may be reserved with or without the cassettes. Cost of video programs is \$10.00.

## DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF LIBRARY MATERIALS

### SECTION 1: CONVENTION SHOWS

The following are slide programs of outstanding exhibits at National Convention shows; they are especially entertaining for members not attending conventions.

- 163L "THE NEW ENGLAND SPIRIT" (C) (80 Slides) Experience the best of the award-winning plants and designs displayed "The New England Way," Boston 1990.
- 166L "VIOLETS IN THE GOLDEN STATE" (C) (80 Slides) Award-winning plants and designs from the Santa Clara convention 1991.
- 167L "A CENTURY OF VIOLETS" (C) (80 Slides) An exciting presentation of award-winning plants and designs from "Violet Heritage and Horizons," Columbus 1992.
- 169L "MORE PENNSYLVANIA FRIENDS" (C) (80 Slides) of award-winning exhibits at the 1993 National Convention Show.
- 171L "A FESTIVAL OF VIOLETS" (C) (80 Slides) Award-winning exhibits - both horticulture and design from the Denver National AVSA Show 1994.
- 175L "ST. LOUIS BLUES AND OTHER COLORS" (C) (80 Slides) Award-winning exhibits - both horticulture and design from the 1995 St. Louis convention.
- 179L "ATLANTA REVISITED! OUR 50TH" (C) (79 Slides) Many of the winning exhibits, both horticulture and design, enjoyed at the 50th Anniversary convention, Atlanta, GA 1996.
- 183L "VIOLETS AT THE BEACH" (C) (78 Slides) Winning exhibits from the convention show 1997 at St. Petersburg Beach, FL.
- 190L "WE VISIT SACRAMENTO - 1998" (C) (80 Slides) Horticulture and designs presented by exhibitors in our convention show, April 1998 in California.
- 193L "HOUSTON BEAUTIES - 1999" (C) (80 Slides) of the convention show 1999.
- 197L "GO WILD IN OMAHA - 2000" (C) (80 Slides) Pictures of "wild" horticulture and design winners from the AVSA convention in Omaha, May, 2000.
- 200L "CHICAGO SHOW BEAUTIES - 2001" Horticulture Design, and Commercial winners at the Convention Show in Chicago. (80 Slides).
- 201L "MR. VIOLET GOES TO WASHINGTON" (C) (80 Slides). See the award winning exhibits in horticulture, design, and more! Selected from over 800 entries at the 2002 show.
- 202L "BEST OF THE 90'S" (C) (80 Slides). The top winners in horticulture and design from the national shows from 1990-1999. The Best of the Best!!

**CD of the 2002 Washington, DC Convention Show.**  
**Order from the AVSA Office.**  
**\$9.95 - US      \$14.95 International**

## SECTION II: NEW INTRODUCTIONS

The following is a series of programs compiled from slides of new cultivars submitted by hybridizers and commercial members.

- 168L “GEMS OF COLUMBUS”** (C) (80 Slides) A collection of slides depicting the best new introductions at the 1992 Columbus, Ohio convention.
- 170L “LANCASTER LOVELIES”** (C) (80 Slides) The best 1993 introductions shown by Ray “Sundown” Pittman at the Lancaster Convention.
- 172L “DENVER DEBUTANTS”** (C) (80 Slides) Selected outstanding 1994 introductions from various hybridizers. Presented by Kent Stork at the Denver Convention.
- 176L “WE MET IN ST. LOUIS”** (C) (80 Slides) - Meet the 1995 new hybrids - slides submitted by various hybridizers and introduced at the St. Louis convention.
- 180L “FIFTY YEARS AND GROWING”** (C) (80 Slides) Slides submitted by various hybridizers and shown in Atlanta, GA at the 50th Anniversary convention.
- 184L “NEW VARIETIES ON PARADE”** (C) (71 Slides) Hybridizers share slides of their new varieties presented at 1997 Convention St. Petersburg Beach, FL.
- 191L “NEW CULTIVARS - 1998”** (C) (50 Slides) Slides of new plants from our hybridizers.
- 199L “NEW INTRODUCTIONS - 2001”** Slides of new cultivars from our hybridizers (48 slides).

## SECTION III: AFRICAN VIOLET LIFE

Section III is a series of slide programs relative primarily to African violet culture and related subjects. They are somewhat dated but with much helpful information for the novice grower.

- 140L “MULTIPLYING SAINTPAULIAS”** (65 Slides) Basic program on African violet propagation including leaf cuttings, plant division, seed and grafting. Slides show how to produce and plant seeds.
- 147L “THE AFRICAN VIOLET PLANT”** (77 Slides) A good, basic program identifying leaf types, blossom form and colors, and diseases that affect the foliage.
- 150L “THE PITTMAN WAY OF GROWING VIOLETS”** (C) (84 Slides) A step-by-step visual program on growing and grooming miniature and semiminature African violets.
- 151L “THE SAINTPAULIA SPECIES”** (79 Slides) A comprehensive, educational, workshop-type program. Very thorough and somewhat technical. A depicted work by Neva Anderson.
- 161L “POINTERS IN JUDGING”** (C) (74 Slides) A revised version of workshop program for judges and exhibitors. Emphasis on grooming of plants in preparation for showing.
- 182L “TRAILERS - MAKING THEM DO WHAT I WANT THEM TO DO”** (C) (70 Slides) (1997) Bev Promersberger demonstrates how she grows trailers that make the “Winners Circle”.
- 194L “DESIGNING FOR SHOW”** (66 Slides) Program includes step-by-step instruction for construction of a terrarium followed by lovely examples of the different design types for exhibition.

## SECTION IV: GESNERIADS

Listed below are programs identifying African violet cousins, their care, and propagation.

- 139L “MEET THE FAMILY”** (C) (60 Slides) A vivid look at some of the other members of the gesneriad family, compiled and narrated by Margaret Waguespack. An informative program for those who want to broaden their growing horizons or for those who just want to “meet the family”.
- 178L “UNUSUAL GESNERIADS FOR THE LIGHT GARDEN”** (C) (54 Slides) A group of the smaller gesneriads suitable for the light stand.

## SECTION V: VIOLET PESTS AND DISEASES

These slide programs identify pests and diseases and their impact on African violet cultivars.

- 132L “AFRICAN VIOLET PESTS”** (C) (52 Slides) A short, succinct program by Dr. Charles L. Cole with vivid illustration of common African violet pests.
- 152L “VIOLET TROUBLES”** (63 Slides) Pests, diseases, and results of poor culture exhibited in the program. An oldie, but good basic information.

## SECTION VI: SPECIAL PROGRAMS

- 187L 30TH AVSC CONVENTION - TORONTO 1997** Slides of the Canadian Show. (80 slides)
- 195L “AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF CANADA CONVENTION & SHOW, TORONTO, CANADA”, 1999** - (80 Slides) of beautiful photography highlight this show.
- 198L “AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF CANADA Convention & Show, Ottawa, 2001”,** (87 Slides).

## VIDEO TAPES

- 173L “AFRICAN VIOLETS IN THE NEW GARDEN”** Ken Froboese talks violets - a visit with Ken in his greenhouse, Hill Country African Violets.
- 185L “GROWING BEAUTIFUL AFRICAN VIOLET TRAILERS”** (28 minutes). Anna Jean Landgren demonstrates how she grows trailers. One of a series of presentations for TV by members of Illinois State AV Society.
- 186L “TEACHING THE TRICKS”** (27 minutes) A second presentation of the cable TV productions - this one shows Jean Willey instructing new grower Tracy Bruns in the basics of African violet growing. Particularly good for novice growers.
- 188L “RAGS TO RICHES”** - Another cable TV presentation in the series of House Plant How-tos. This is by Andrea Worell as she demonstrates how to groom or redo those African violets that need “help”.
- 189L “PROPAGATING YOUR POSIES”** - This video, also by Andrea Worell, shows how she starts African violets and some other gesneriads. Another of the House Plant How-to series. Andrea has a new slant on an old idea. Very entertaining.
- 196L “BASIC AFRICAN VIOLET CARE”** - 25 minute video by Don Geiss is a good introduction to growing African Violets.

## PACKETS

1. Packets are loaned for a period of one month, as available.
2. Requests for two or more packets will be filled whenever possible.
3. Packets must be returned postpaid by FIRST, THIRD, OR FOURTH CLASS MAIL.
4. Cost of each packet is \$3.00 and must be paid by check to AVSA at time of request.

## DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF PACKETS

- 155L JUST FOR FUN PACKET:** “Violet Carol” Christmas skit in one act. A fun way to celebrate the holidays with a skit performed by your club members. This is an original skit written by Kent Stork of Kent's Flowers, Fremont, NE, and donated to the AVSA Library.
- 156L NEWSLETTER/MAGAZINE PACKET:** Anyone desiring to start a newsletter or magazine would find this packet helpful.
- 157L PROGRAM-PLANNING PACKET:** Suggestions to help a program chairman, or committee, plan the programs for a club's activities.
- 158L SHOW SCHEDULES PACKET:** Show schedules of African violet shows from different sections of the country. Excellent for new ideas and those clubs planning their first show.
- 159L YEARBOOK COLLECTION PACKET:** This packet contains yearbooks from various affiliate clubs. Especially recommended for clubs producing their first yearbook.
- 192L INSTALLATION PACKET:** A collection of different installation programs that will be found interesting and useful for installing your new officers.

# FOLIAR MEALYBUGS

by Dr. Charles Cole

From his book *Insect and Mite Pests of African Violets*

Foliar mealybugs are common pests of native trees, weeds and grasses. They readily attack many ornamental trees and shrubs as well as plants cultured for their flowers or foliage. These pests occur out of doors during warm weather and in the home and greenhouse throughout the year. More than 280 species of mealybugs have been identified in the United States and Canada. Of these, several species may attack and seriously damage cultured plants.

## Description and Identification

Mealybugs are flattened and oval in shape. They range from 0.5 to 6.0 mm in length, depending upon species. Although they are distinctly segmented, they have no clear definition between their head, thorax, and abdomen. Mealybugs also have short spines along the lateral margins and tail end of their body. The name "mealybug" was derived from the fact that these insects produce a white waxy material from glands in their body. This "mealy" or "powdery" material is used to cover their body and protect them from desiccating (dehydrating).

Mealybugs are closely related to aphids and scale insects. Their movements are very sluggish. Once they begin to feed, they are reluctant to move at all. These pests often congregate in large, compact colonies. They may produce great masses of waxy fibers, burying the whole colony as it feeds beneath this protective covering.

## Life History and Habits

Some species of mealybugs reproduce by laying eggs, other by giving birth to living young. Certain species utilize both methods of reproduction with live young being produced part of the time and the laying of eggs at other times. The method is dependent upon temperature, the season of the year, and location.

Mealybug eggs are small, oval, and are whitish to yellowish in color. They hatch in about five to ten days, dependent upon temperature. Newly hatched nymphs are yellow. They feed for about three to four weeks, migrating throughout a plant in search of favorable feeding sites. Pupation takes place on the plant. Adults emerge from the pupa in one to two weeks. A life cycle can be completed in six to eight weeks.

Adult male mealybugs have two wings. Upon reaching the adult stage, they fly about, mate with a female, then die. Females never have wings. After mating, the species which lay eggs produce an ovisac at the end of their abdomen. This is a fiber-like sack into which their eggs are laid. About 200-400 eggs may be deposited into each ovisac. The ovisac may be deposited into the mass of waxy powder housing the colony. In some species the female carries the ovisac attached to her

body until the eggs hatch, or in some cases, until she dies.

Foliar mealybugs overwinter in the egg, or early nymphal stage. In protected areas such as homes or greenhouses, reproduction is continuous, with several generations being produced during a single year. All stages of mealybugs: eggs, nymphs, and adults, may be found on infested plants at any given time.

Ants often tend mealybug colonies much a dairyman would a herd of cows. The ants carry mealybugs from plant to plant protecting them from harsh environmental conditions and predators. In return, the ants feed on honeydew produced by the mealybugs.

## Damage

Mealybugs damage plants by inserting their piercing-sucking mouthparts into tender plant tissue and sucking out the sap. They extract a large volume of sap, much of which is excreted as honeydew. Removing honeydew from plants or from sooty mold which grows on the honeydew can be difficult and time consuming.

## Symptoms of Infestations

Mealybug infestations can reduce plant vigor. Symptoms of infestation include wilting of foliage, yellowing of leaves, and the premature drop of buds and blossoms. Heavy infestations can cause reduced leaf size, deformed growth, die-back, and eventual plant death. Long before these symptoms appear on the plant, mealybugs may be detected by the white waxy material they deposit on the foliage and by the presence of honeydew.

## Infestation and Spread

Mealybugs are so common and they are found on such a wide host range that it is easy to get an infestation without even being aware of it. The most common source of infestation is from other plants. Being wingless and rather sessile, mealybugs tend to go where their host goes. The movement of potted plants and cut flowers are responsible for most infestations. Plants can appear clean, but it takes only one egg mass (200-400 eggs) to start an infestation. Most newly contracted populations are extremely low and never become entrenched in a culture, dying off before they are discovered.

Mealybugs may also be introduced into a culture from infested equipment such as pots and tools. Some are introduced from out of doors on contaminated hands or clothing. Mealybugs may enter a home or greenhouse in the fur of animals.

Once established, an infestation may be spread throughout a culture. The spread may be natural as the population builds

up on a plant and the mealy-bugs migrate, looking for favorable feeding sites. Infestations may also be spread as individual plants containing mealybugs are moved about from room to room or shelf to shelf.

Ants often tend mealybugs and move them from place to place. This can be a factor in both the introduction and the spread of mealybugs in the home and especially in the greenhouse.

### Prevention and Cultural Control

Close inspection of all new plants is the best preventative measure for mealybugs. Plants should be examined thoroughly. Check the underside of leaves, flower stalks if present, and where the leaf petiole joins the stem. New plants may be isolated for sixty to ninety days before being introduced into the culture. Isolated plants should be inspected at weekly intervals for signs of mealybugs or other pests.

Care should be taken with cut flowers. Inspect all arrangements and avoid arrangements of fresh cut flowers from out of doors. Care should also be taken to prevent pets from coming into contact with plants, especially if they have free access to the out of doors.

Successful cultural control depends upon the frequent inspection of your violet culture. Infestations must be detected while mealybugs are low in numbers and before they have spread throughout the culture. When mealybugs are found, infested plants may be removed, treated and isolated, or destroyed. Often, the mealybugs can be removed using a cotton swab moistened with alcohol. All waxy material produced by the mealybugs should be removed from the plant as it could harbor eggs and young mealybugs. All plants treated in this manner should be isolated for a period of time to insure that all of the pests were removed.

Often, the simple act of removing a single infested plant can prevent the establishment of or spread of an infestation. In

this case, one should frequently inspect plants in the area where the infested plant was found.

It is a good practice to observe other plants growing in the area of your violets. Bedding plants such as coleus and foliage plants such as ivy are good hosts of mealybugs. Eliminating infestations on alternate hosts help prevent infestations on violets.

Denying ants access to your greenhouse or home can help prevent the introduction and spread of mealybugs. This can generally be accomplished by eliminating ant colonies around the outside of the structure.

### Chemical Control

Just as with soil mealybugs, foliar mealybugs are very easy to kill. However, it is difficult to control an established population. The reasons for this include a high rate of reproduction, small size, secretive nature, and the protection provided by the waxy material they produce.

If populations are not completely eliminated, resurgence may occur in a few weeks. Thus, frequent inspections should be made following insecticide treatments. The waxy material produced by mealybugs is not eliminated with the application of an insecticide and may be mistaken for an active infestation. Inspections of treated plants will help determine if control was achieved, thus eliminating the unnecessary use of pesticides.

As a general rule, best control of foliar mealy-bugs is achieved when two to three applications of a pesticide are used, at seven to ten day intervals. Thorough coverage of the stem and underside of leaves is essential. The use of a spreader-sticker in the spray enhances control.

At last count, the EPA had registered more than 100 products for the control of mealybugs on African violets. Insecticide should be applied only when mealybugs are found. Preventative sprays should not be used, as they have no effect if no pests are present. The residual effect lasts only a few days.

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## AVOIDING TRANSPLANT SHOCK IN VARIEGATED PLANTS

by Sue Gardner

Variegated plants sometimes develop brown patches after re-potting. There are several possible causes.

1. Plants may be affected by cold conditions when transplanting. Re-potting itself causes trauma to plants, and variegated plants seem to be affected more when re-potted during cold weather. Cold potting mix or cold water can also cause brown blotches. These marks take a day or two to develop. To prevent this happening, avoid re-potting during cold weather and always avoid cold potting mix and cold water.
2. The leaf tissue of variegated plants seems to be more sensitive to touching. This is possibly because they contain less chlorophyll. If you use a brush to clean leaves, make sure it is very soft. Also, avoid excessive handling

and always be gentle.

3. When plants are transplanted, the root system is damaged. If you prune the roots radically, there are fewer roots to absorb water and nutrients. If you water abundantly after re-potting, the roots will have not recovered sufficiently to deal with the swamp that may develop. Make the potting mix moist and water sparingly the next day; add a few drops of plant starter to the water. To obtain the best results with variegated plants, re-pot during warmer days and take extra care as outlined above.

From the *Newsletter of the  
Early Morn AV Group*, Australia & New Zealand

# REJUVENATION

by Joan Halford

From her book, *Growing African Violets in South Africa*

Rejuvenating an old plant is so simple. Over a period of time, an older plant will get a long neck, caused by the loss or removal of many of the lower leaves. If the neck is less than one inch, the plant can be potted down, and this is how you do it:

- (a) With a knife, scrape the neck as you would a carrot, but not quite so deeply, to remove all the old scar tissue. Let it dry off a little. This is the area from which new roots will grow.
- (b) Take the plant out of the pot, and with your sharp knife, slice off as much off the bottom of the root-ball as you would need to set the plant deeper in the pot. In other words, if the neck is about one inch long, you will need to cut that length off the rootball, and throw away the part you cut off.
- (c) Place the plant back into the pot. It will be lower now, and there will be an empty area, also around the neck, which you will have to fill in with fresh, moist, potting mix.
- (d) Water the plant well and set it aside. Keep this plant just moist until the new roots have formed, which should take about four weeks. I would suggest a plastic covering over the plant if surgery has been severe.

If the neck is over one inch, or has grown crooked, it would be better to re-root your plant. This is how you do it:

- (a) Remove the lower leaves so that you have a small rosette, showing good form. A smaller crown rooting is a better choice than a larger crown.
- (b) Scrape the neck as above.
- (c) Cut the neck off and throw the entire rootball away, leaving about 1-1/2 inch, measuring from the lower row of leaves you have left.
- (d) Root this rosette in water if you wish, by putting the plant into a jar sufficiently wide to hold the rosette of leaves out of the water. Keep the water level about 1/2 inch below the first row of petioles. Maintain this level all the time, and refresh often. Again, cover with plastic, if you can, in order to retain humidity.
- (e) Root the rosette in rooting mix by planting it directly into the rooting medium
- (f) Fill a small, shallow pot with rooting mix and make a hole in the center about one inch deep. You have not forgotten that rooting medium is half vermiculite and half perlite, have you?
- (g) Push your plant with it's scraped stem into this very gently, and firm the plant well, covering the neck with more rooting medium.

- (h) Protect the plant with a plastic bag. Rooting should take place in about a month. Keep it evenly wet, so that new, developing roots do not die off.

## REJUVENATION FROM A CROWN

African violets have a great will to live.

When the plant has developed a neck that is one inch long, what should be done? It looks unsightly, the plant does not bloom well, nor for that matter, does it grow.

The process of repotting and restarting this crown should be tackled immediately. Do not put off this job. There is no need to strip off all the leaves. Remove those that are tattered, yellow, and unsightly. Reduce the plant's size slightly by taking off wayward leaves.

Prepare the correct size pot, remembering that pot size should be 1/3 of the diameter of the plant. Fill the pot with either your potting mix or half perlite and half vermiculite - the rooting medium that you will by now have on hand.

Cut across the main stem. It is drastic surgery to your plant, but it is worth it. Discard the root-ball. Holding the amputated plant, again scrape this stub, which should be only about two inches long. Be gentle with this scraping; do not scrape too deep. With your finger, poke a hole in the rooting medium, the depth of the stub you are holding. Measure it. Put the plant stub into this hole in the middle of the pot. Firm it well and settle, by gently tapping the container on the tabletop. Put three stakes into the soil at regular intervals around the pot. Pull a large plastic bag over the pot and plant. Close it firmly, only releasing it when humidity builds up too much. After three weeks, and several airings, the bag may be discarded. The plant should be growing steadily, and new growth should be visible in the center crown. Remove the stakes as well.

## REJUVENATION FROM A CROWN WITH ROOT-ROT

Sometimes you merely touch a prized plant, and a huge head of foliage and blossoms topples over. Don't tell me it doesn't happen, it happens to the best of growers. ROOT ROT! You are utterly devastated, but take heart, all is not lost. Though root rot is diagnosed, the procedure for re-rooting is the same. It might be advisable to double-check to be sure no speck or part of rotting brown stem remains after cutting off the rootball. Reduce the foliage and re-root, which is far quicker than starting again by leaf. By this method, the characteristics of the variety are retained; on the other hand, by rerooting a leaf from the same plant, they could be lost. In any case, it is wise always to take a leaf off and plant it when something like this happens. You could be unlucky and your prized plant could die.

## REPORTING BY CUTTING DOWN A ROOT-BALL

Should the plant need a larger pot, repotting can be done quickly. In that case, the mold method should be used. Should the same sized pot be needed, a quick method is to cut off a piece of the rootball equal to the length of the neck. If the neck is one inch long, cut off an equal length from the bottom of the rootball. It is as easy as that. If the pot is shaped, the sides of the rootball can be trimmed down if necessary, using a long-bladed, sharp knife. This is done preferably prior to watering day. After watering, petioles are turgid and snap off easily.

The same routine is followed, scraping the neck and removing the drainage material, whatever it may be. Clean off

the fertilizer salts from the rim of the pot if you see any residue.

Fill in with the correct depth of drainage material. Sink the plant down into the clean pot, which will be of the same diameter and depth. It is wise to measure and check this depth thoroughly when planting, because when settled in, the lower leaves should come from the main stem just above the rim of the pot, not too deep and not too high. The scraped neck should be covered with potting mix.

How long can a violet last before it wears out? With care, it can go on forever. There is no limit to its life span. Repotting and rejuvenation are part of life's processes and if done on time, and properly, the plants can become heirlooms!

## AVSA BOOSTER FUND

Shirley Berger

4343 Schumacher Rd- 196E • Sebring, FL 33872

CONTRIBUTIONS APRIL 1 - MAY 31, 2002

Bergen County AVS, Hasbrouck Hts, NJ. . . . . \$25.00  
*In lieu of speaker's fee - Fred Hill.*  
*Apply to microfilm project.*  
AV Club of Morris County, Lafayette, NJ . . . . . 20.00  
*In lieu of judges' expenses - Fred Hill, Janet Riemer;*  
*apply to microfilm project; Laurel Brown,*  
*Heather Menzel.*  
Central Jersey AVS, Milltown, NJ. . . . . 30.00  
*In lieu of judges' expenses - Fred Hill, Janet Riemer,*  
*Laura Shannon, Lee Gugliardi, Frank Senna,*  
*Florence Friedman. Apply to microfilm project.*  
Silvermine AVS, Westport, CT . . . . . 15.00  
*In lieu of speaker's fee, Edna Rourke*  
Long Island AVS, Baldwin, NY . . . . . 20.00  
Spring Branch AV Club, Kingwood, TX . . . . . 25.00  
Julia Schoenstadt, Independence, MO . . . . . 5.00  
Doris R. Acree, McKenzie, TN . . . . . 5.00  
Corona Heidel, Independence, MO . . . . . 10.00  
Victoria AVS, Victoria, TX . . . . . 10.00  
Luanne Arico, Plainsboro, NJ . . . . . 4.00  
Doris R. Weaver, Stockton, CA . . . . . 1.00  
Marge Farrand, Ann Arbor, MI. . . . . 20.00

Jody Pink, The Dalles, OR . . . . . \$5.00  
Vivian Horak, Naples, FL. . . . . 5.00  
Vivian Schwartz, Lake Worth, FL. . . . . 5.00  
Florence Schverstein, Norwalk, CT . . . . . 10.00  
Janice Murray, New York, NY. . . . . 20.00  
Milwaukee AVS, WI . . . . . 10.00  
James Welch, San Leandro, CA. . . . . 40.00  
Jeanne Church, Jerusalem, AR . . . . . 3.00  
Barbara Church, Dumont, NJ . . . . . 10.00  
Millie Reavis, Apple Valley, CA. . . . . 75  
M. Fasullo, Lynbrook, NY . . . . . 10.00  
Allen Krueger, Zanesville, OH . . . . . 10.00  
Shirley Abrams, Tinton Falls, NJ. . . . . 5.00  
Geneva Mayo, Pulaski, TN . . . . . 5.00  
Valley AVS, Harlingen, TX. . . . . 20.00  
First AVS of Spartenburg, SC . . . . . 15.00  
The Viking Violettes, Circle Pines, MN. . . . . 10.00  
Betty Callahan . . . . . 25.00  
*In memory of Bill Lyons.*  
Shirley Berger. . . . . 25.00  
*In memory of Bill Lyons, long-time friend and mentor.*

**TOTAL:.....\$423.75**

# Air Circulation and Ventilation

by Pauline Bartholomew  
from her book, *Growing to Show*

Fresh, gently moving, warm, humid air. This is a condition we always strive to create for our plants. Air circulation and ventilation are easy to provide, but there are a few precautions to be practiced. It is rarely advisable to have windows open in the plant room. African violets are particularly sensitive to drafts. In addition, thrips and aphids from an outside garden can easily come through screening.

Introduce fresh air daily from a room adjacent to the plant room. Adequate air movement is usually generated by the comings and goings of people. However, if there is little air movement, particularly during warm weather, a small fan operating during light hours is helpful. The fan should not blow directly on the plants.

# Fall Thoughts about Gesneriads

by Margie Kotliar

As the days grow shorter and the temperatures begin to gradually drop, the plants that may have been languishing in the "dog days" of summer begin to perk up.

If you have them on a summer schedule of less light and/or fertilizer, begin to **gradually** return to your regular program. Small steps prevent dramatic changes in the plant's growth pattern which could result in different sized leaves or other undesired changes.

Plants that have been growing outside will soon need to be returned inside. Begin careful inspections several weeks before they are to be brought into the house. Examine the axils, stems, and top and underside of the foliage of each plant carefully for any signs of insects or insect damage. A thorough washing of all areas of the plant with a fine mist of water will remove many things that you don't want to bring inside (besides insects, unwanted house guests accompanying plants into my house have included a frog and a chameleon).

If you use a preventive program of insecticide, make sure that it is diluted to the proper strength. Spray each plant individually, top and bottom, while it is out of the sun or bright light. Protect the plant from drafts and cool air while it dries.

Some people give two treatments, a week or two apart, before returning the plants inside. Careful prevention along with a period of isolation now means less or, hopefully, no trouble later.

Plants that go dormant like *Achimenes* will begin to show signs of approaching dormancy as the days grow shorter. Gradually reduce water. I keep my *Achimenes* watered as long as possible because the humming birds that are preparing for their long journey love to feast on them. It doesn't seem to harm the plants as they produce large numbers of rhizomes. When they go dormant, you may remove the dead top growth and retrieve the rhizomes. They may be placed in a baggie with a little vermiculite and stored in a cool place. Since fall is such a busy time, I prefer to just cut the stems at the soil level and store them in their pots in an attached, unheated garage. In the spring I will remove the rhizomes, fill the pots with fresh potting mix, add some slow release fertilizer, and plant some of the rhizomes. There are usually plenty left over to share with others.

From the *Dixie News*

## Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene J. Buck • 17235 N. 106th Avenue • Sun City, AZ 85373-1958

Donations received from April 1, 2002 - May 31, 2002

Hans & Everdina Inpijn, Laguna Woods, CA . . . . . \$25.00 <i>In remembrance of Tom Parsons, the husband of Nadine Parsons</i>	Long Island AVS, Hempstead, NY . . . . . \$25.00
Hoosier AVS, Cedar Lake, IN. . . . . 10.00 <i>In memory of Dorothy Galster</i>	Spring Branch AVC, Kingwood, TX . . . . . 10.00
Ventura County AVS, Ojai, CA. . . . . 10.00 <i>In memory of Tom Parsons</i>	Hans & Everdina Inpijn, Laguna Woods, CA . . . . . 25.00 <i>In fond memory of Denzel Robert</i>
Central Jersey AVS, Milltown, NJ . . . . . 10.00 <i>In lieu of judges' expenses for Lee Borey and Laurel Brown</i>	Richmond AVS, Richmond, VA . . . . . 25.00
Paul Poeschi, Oshkosh, WI . . . . . 5.00	Lake Shore AVS, Evanston, IL . . . . . 50.00 <i>In memory of George Landgren, a beloved member of our club</i>
Lynn Wallach, Westport, CT . . . . . 10.00	African Violet Society of Springfield, Havertown, PA . . . . 5.00 <i>In lieu of judges' expenses to Marianne Gershon</i>
Arlene Garvens, Elroy, WI . . . . . 5.00	Valley AVS, Harlingen, TX . . . . . 20.00
Claudia S. Golab, Chicago, IL . . . . . 5.00	First AVS of Spartanburg, Woodruff, SC . . . . . 10.00
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Anthony R. Martinka, Marysville, WA. . . . . 10.00 <i>In memory of J. C. Munk</i>	Barbara Church, Dumont, NJ. . . . . 10.00
Doris R. Acree, McKenzie, TN. . . . . 5.00	Millie Reavis, Apple Valley, CA. . . . . 0.75
Victoria AVS, Victoria, TX. . . . . 10.00	West County AVC, Chesterfield, MO. . . . . 20.00 <i>In fondest memory of Ray Meiners, whose inspiration, warm sense of humor, and dedication to violets will be missed.</i>
Kimberly A. Saima, Minneapolis, MN . . . . . 5.00	Geneva Mayo, Pulaski, TN. . . . . 5.00
Barbara Jenkins, Unionville, PA. . . . . 10.00	Irene Schubert, Worthington, MN . . . . . 10.00
Montrose AVS, Glendale, CA. . . . . 25.00 <i>In memory of Tom Parsons</i>	Shirley Abrams, Tinton Falls, NJ . . . . . 5.00



# Coming Events



## September 13 & 14 - TEXAS

Alpha AVS, First of Dallas AVS and First Nighter AVS Combined Sale  
Plano Market Square Mall  
(Garden Ridge)

Ave K at Spring Creek Parkway

Plano, TX

Sept 13 - 9am - 9pm

Sept 14 - 9am - 6pm

Info: Grace Davis (972) 278-0389

## September 14 - COLORADO

The Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers  
Show/Sale

Gates Hall, Denver Botanic Gardens

1005 York St, Denver CO

Admission Fees: \$6.50 Adults

\$4.50 Srs., \$4.00 Children

Info: Ann Watterson (303) 467-2135

Email: cah2oson@msn.com

## September 14 & 15 - CALIFORNIA

Delta Gesneriad and AVS  
AVSA Judged Show/Sale  
Sacramento Garden and Arts Center  
3330 McKinley Blvd.  
Sacramento, CA

Sept 14 - 2pm - 5pm

Sept 15 - 10am - 4pm

Info: Oscar Faoro (916) 421-8833

## September 21 - CANADA

Stampee City AVS Plant Sale  
Northland Village Mall  
5111 Northland Dr. NW  
Calgary, AB, Canada

Hours: 9am - 5pm

Info: Winston J. Goresky

(403) 241-8300

Email: SCAVS@cadvision.com

## September 21 & 22 - ARIZONA

Tucson AVS Sale/Display  
El Con Mall, 3601 E. Broadway  
Tucson, AZ

Mall Hours

Info: Anita Howard (520) 743-3627

Email: altharold@earthlink.net

Kathy Bell (520) 574-1367

Email: kb6ell@ag.arizona.edu

## September 27 & 28 - IOWA

Cedar Valley AVC Show/Sale

Crossroads Mall, Waterloo, IA

Sept 27 - 10am - 9pm

Sept 28 - 10am - 3pm

Info: Barbara Pershing (319) 987-2235

## September 27 & 28 - TENNESSEE

Volunteer State AV Council Show/Sale

Memphis Botanic Garden

750 Cherry Rd.

Memphis, TN

Sept 27 - 9am - 6pm

Sept 28 - 9am - 5pm

Info: Brenda Brasfield (662) 895-2002

## September 28 - CALIFORNIA

Fancy Bloomers AVS Plant Sale

Coddington Mall

Guernville Rd. at Hwy 101

Santa Rosa, CA

Hours: 10am - 4pm

Info: Byron Borck (707) 527-8362

## September 28-29 - Pennsylvania

Pittsburgh Violet and Gesneriad Society

Northland Public Library

300 Cumberland Road

Pittsburgh, PA

Saturday 10:00am - 5pm

Sunday 1:00 - 3:30pm

Info: Georgene Albrecht

(724) 693-8666

Email: georgene@bellatlantic.net

## October 4 - NORTH CAROLINA

Coastal Plain AVC Plant Sale

Nash County Senior Center

Located at rear of the Cultural Bldg.

Downtown Nashville, North Carolina

Info: Lucille Prutsman (252) 459-3722

## October 5 & 6 - MICHIGAN

Michigan State AVS Display/Sale

Mathai Botanical Gardens

1800 Dixboro Rd.

Ann Arbor, MI

Oct 5 - 10am - 4:30pm

Oct 6 - 11am - 2pm

Info: Ingrid Bowman (248) 698-3628

## October 5 - WASHINGTON

Tacoma Saintpaulia Society Plant Sale

Poole's Nursery and Garden Center

6th and Union, Tacoma, WA

Hours: 10am - 3pm

## October 5 - OKLAHOMA

AVS of Greater Tulsa Plant Sale

Tulsa Garden Center

2435 South Peoria, Tulsa, OK

Hours: 10am - Sold Out

Info: Judy Carter (918) 355-8020

Email: judithcarter@msn.com

## October 11 - 13 - MINNESOTA

Lakes Area Violet Growers Display/Sale

Northtown Mall

398 Northtown Dr., Blaine, MN

Oct 11 - 10am - 9pm

Oct 12 - 10am - 6pm

Oct 13 - 11am - 5pm

Info: Jean Ness (651) 429-4109

## October 11 - 13 - GEORGIA

Georgia AV Judge's Society Show/Sale

Colonial Lakeside Mall

Gainesville, GA

Mall Hours

Info: Laura Walker (706) 579-1871

## October 11 - 13 - MINNESOTA

AVS of Minnesota Display/Sale

Har Mar Mall

Snelling Ave. and County Rd. B

Roseville, MN

Oct 11 - 10am - 9pm

Oct 12 - 10am - 6pm

Oct 13 - noon - 5pm

Info: Ruth Bann (763) 671-6703

Email: rebels@mninter.net

## October 11 - 13 - WISCONSIN

Wisconsin Council of AV Clubs

Show/Sale

East Towne Mall

Madison, WI

Oct 11 - 10am - 9pm

Oct 12 - 10am - 9pm

Oct 13 - 11am - 5pm

Info: Bonnie Henell (608) 221-2050

## October 12 & 13 - FLORIDA

Gulf AVC Judged Show/Sale

Garden Council Building

2646 Cleveland Ave., Fort Myers, FL

Oct 12 - 10am - 5pm

Oct 13 - 10am - 4pm

Info: Catherine Carter (941) 768-3396

Email: cathy3207@aol.com

## October 19 - OREGON

Portland AV Association Plant Sale

Tabor Heights Methodist Church

6161 SE Stark, Portland, OR

Hours: 10am - 4pm

Info: Charlotte Smith (503) 771-5762

Ruth Jones (503) 223-9855

## October 19 - COLORADO

Rocky Mountain African Violet

Council, Sale

Denver Botanic Gardens

1007 York St., Denver, CO 80206

Saturday 9:00am - 4:30pm

Info: Neily Levine (303) 423-6072

Email: LevineNelshel@aol.com

## October 19 & 20 - TEXAS

First Austin AVS Show/Sale

Zilker Botanical Garden

2220 Barton Springs Rd.

Austin, TX

Oct 19 - 10am - 4:30pm

Oct 20 - 10am - 4pm

Info: Jeanette Pursley (512) 243-2289

## October 19 & 20 - CONNECTICUT

Nutmeg State AVS Annual Show/Sale

Days Inn, Exit 55, I-95

Branford, CT

Oct 19 - 1pm - 5pm

Oct 20 - 10am - 4pm

Info: (203) 281-1715

## October 19 - TEXAS

Corpus Christi AVS

Padre Staples Mall - Center Court

5488 S. Padre Island Dr.

Corpus Christi, TX

Hours: 10am - 5pm

Info: Marjorie Bullard (361) 992-3009

Email: MarjBcrp@scglobal.net

## October 19 & 20 - PENNSYLVANIA

AVS of Philadelphia Show/Sale

Bosco's Auditorium

Plymouth meeting Hall

Germanstown Pike and Hickory Rd.

Plymouth Meeting, PA

Oct 19 - 1pm - 5pm

Oct 20 - 11am - 4pm

Info: Judith Smith (215) 233-2579

Email: smthjha@mail.med.upenn.edu

Betsy Gottshall (610) 489-6124

Email: Gotshtb@aol.com

## October 19 & 20 - CALIFORNIA

Central California AVS Plant Sale

Fresno Manchester Center

1901 East Shields Ave.

Fresno, CA

Info: Stan Barnes (559) 294-8650

## October 26 & 27 - MINNESOTA

North Star AV Council Show/Sale

Bachman's

6010 Lyndale Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN

Store Hours

Info: Sandy Officer (952) 835-8603

Paul Hussa (763) 522-2037

## October 26 & 27 - FLORIDA

AVS of SW Florida Display/Sale

Fr. Meyers-Lee County

Garden Council Bldg.

2646 Cleveland Ave.

Fr. Meyers, FL

Oct 26 - 9am - 5pm

Oct 27 - 9am - 4pm

Info: Lillian Scott (941) 542-9193

## November 2 & 3 - NEW JERSEY

Tristate AV Council Judged Show/Sale

Frelinghuysen Arboretum

53 East Hanover Ave.

Morristown, NJ

Nov 2 - 1:30 - 5pm

Nov 3 - 11am - 4pm

Info: Jill Fischer (908) 464-4414

## November 2 & 3 - MISSOURI

Mid-America AVS 23rd Annual

Show/Sale

Loose Park Garden Center

5200 Pennsylvania

Kansas City, MO

Both Days: 10am - 3pm

Info: Grace McCurnin (913) 722-4085

Email: vngmc@planetkc.com



# Going to and Coming Home from the Show

by Beverley Williams • Mississauga, ON, Canada

After you have spent a considerable length of time growing that special African violet that could be Best In Show, you want to make sure that it is well groomed and that it arrives at the show in perfect condition. Anything you can do to improve your plants before the show will directly impact how the judges view them.

Grooming should be done at home before the show; a quick touch-up can be done at the show if necessary.

The following point score gives the number of points that make up the total of 100, but also defines the reasons that you can lose points. The Judges use these scores when they evaluate your plants for an award:

## Leaf Pattern (Symmetry) 25 points

Gaps/spaces between leaves or rows

Breaks in symmetry of leaf pattern

Uneven distribution of foliage

## Condition (Cultural Perfection) 25 points

Secondary leaves (small leaves under outer row)

Well grown, well groomed

Marred, broken, dead, yellow, and/or bleached leaves

Spent blooms

Petiole stubs

Under or overpotted (Correct size pot)

Off center in the pot

Long neck

Needs cleaning

Needs grooming

If variegated, lacks variegation

Suckers not completely removed (Note that a plant will be eliminated from consideration if a sucker is present.)

Dust, soil, traces of spray

Seed pods not removed

## Floriferousness (Quantity of bloom) 25 points

Not enough bloom for plant size

## Size & Type of Bloom 15 points

Average or above

Small for variety

Type of blossoms not constant or true to variety

## Color Of Bloom 10 points

Clear and acceptable according to variety

Color off for variety

If multicolor, lacks proper multicolor

Wrong hue or value of blossom

## Miniatures/Semiminiatures

Carefully measure your miniature violets to make sure that they conform to the size limits. Miniatures should not be larger than six inches in diameter, and semiminiatures should not be larger than eight inches in diameter. If they are larger, they will be disqualified. Remove leaves to make your plant smaller, if necessary, so that it conforms to the requirements. A micro

miniature African violet must touch the sides of the pot, so you may have to move your small plant into a smaller pot.

## Trailers

Trailing African violets must have three crowns growing from a central stem, not three plants potted into the same pot. There should not be any bare stems showing, and all the crowns should be in bloom. Trailers are judged on form rather than symmetry.

## Pests

Have you checked that your plants do not have a pest or disease? **If they do, leave them at home.**

## Water

Make sure that your African violet has sufficient water in the soil to stand up through the show. Water one day before the show with "Sturdy" at the rate of one teaspoon to a gallon of water.

Remove all supports from the plant including plastic picks, toothpicks, and collars. **Make sure that your name and the plant name are on the bottom of the pot and that the pot is clean.** Your plants must be in a pot of the color specified in the show schedule, or, in the case of some sensitive gesneriads, a covered container is acceptable. If not, you can slip pot your plant. Always check the schedule for exact information about acceptable pots and containers.

Prepare a list of entries for the Classification Committee and keep a copy for yourself.

## Some of the tools that are useful for grooming are:

### Animal hair brush

Do not use nylon as it will damage the fine hairs on the leaves and leave marks. Use a 1-1 1/2 inch pastry brush or any other natural bristle brush. Judges will remove points under "Condition" for bits of soil, dust, or animal hair that is left on the foliage. Hold each leaf gently and brush away from the center of the plant toward the outside. Turn your plant to access the next leaf, and continue until finished. If your plant has many rows of leaves, start at the row closest to the crown (center) and clean each row separately until you are finished, brushing towards the outside of the plant.

### Long tweezers

Long tweezers can get into the center of the plant where your hands cannot. They are very handy to remove peduncle nubs that are left after "disbudding" or other plant matter. **Remember to remove all traces of a sucker.** A sucker is the start of a new plant, consists of four or more small leaves, and can be found at the base of the plant or near the axil. Some bud stalks, when they are forming, resemble a sucker

with two small leaves, but once growth shows no evidence of a bud, it is a sucker.

**A nutpick or a sharp pointed tool** is also helpful to remove suckers.

### **Long, thin sharp scissors**

With your scissors you can remove spent blooms close to the peduncle so that your plant will not have nubs. Remove all spent, dead, or dying blooms. Be careful not to damage the bloom.

### **A roll of toilet paper**

This is extremely helpful in determining the symmetry of your plant. Place a single sheet of toilet paper over the leaves you are thinking of removing and look at your plant. Sometimes it is helpful to put your plant on the floor and stand directly over the top. This gives you a great view of the leaf pattern. Adjust the toilet paper, if necessary, to obtain the best result. Also remove marred, yellow, or bruised leaves. Immature or baby leaves should also be removed. However, if the removal of a baby leaf leaves a large gap, it might be better to leave the baby leaf.

### **A turntable**

This is extremely helpful to move your plant during grooming as it allows you to turn your violet easily and not damage the leaves.

**A strong light or gooseneck light** can be used to shine into the center of the leaves. It exposes all the dust and small bits of soil on the leaves. A flashlight can be used for the same purpose.

To remove animal hair on a leaf, wind masking tape backwards (sticky side out) on the handle of a paintbrush.

To remove stains or insecticide residue from your leaves, use one tablespoon of vinegar to a quart of water with a Q-tip. Or "spit" on a Q-tip also works well.

### **Getting Your Plants to the Show**

Now that your African violet is perfectly groomed, you want it to arrive at the show in perfect condition. This is the time you wished you owned a fleet of transport trucks to get all those boxes there. However, since most of us don't, here are a few suggestions:

### **Go box shopping**

You will never know where you will find that perfect box. Be on the lookout for boxes everywhere, and at all times. Shopping malls and grocery stores are excellent hunting grounds. If you are fortunate enough, you might be able to obtain some specialty flower boxes.

### **Measure your large plants**

Choose boxes that are high enough not to damage the bloom of your plants, as well as large enough to leave some space around the leaves. Many leaves are broken, bruised, or damaged due to the motion of the car if they touch the sides of the box. Similarly, blooms are crushed if your box is not tall

enough.

Trial fit your boxes into your car/van so that there are no surprises on the day of the show. Use boxes that are clean, or vacuum them as needed. Accumulated dust, dirt, and other things can land on your clean, groomed plant during transportation if the box is not cleaned out.

Make sure that you have a top or cover for your box to protect the plants from the elements like rain, cold, or the wind. If it is windy, tie down the top. The wind can do a lot of damage in a short time.

Make, borrow, or purchase a flat bed dolly to move all those plants from your car to the show location.

Use pots that are taped or glued down to the bottom of the box to hold your plant firmly in place. You can also pack your plants in boxes with newspaper and plastic bags. Dry cleaner bags are excellent to place between the leaves of plants that are touching each other.

An idea that works well is to take your box and insert another box upside down into it. Cut the sides of the upside-down box to the level of the pots that you will use, (i.e.) 2"-3" high for a 2 1/2" pot, and deeper for larger pots. Now trace around the bottom of the pot and cut out the circle bottom that you have traced from the box. This provides a space that you can put your pot into. You can put many small plants into the same box with this technique as the cut out portion of the upside-down box provides a secure way to transport your plants.

If you are packing your plants on the day before the show, make sure that you put them in a safe place away from animals, curious children, and helpful spouses. Put them on top of a table, but leave the tops off for air circulation. You could also put your boxes into a room and close the door. Nothing is more disastrous than your pet cat sharing the same box as your prize winning African violet or your helpful spouse accidentally knocking into or stepping on your plants. Accidents do happen; be careful not to drop that box!

### **Coming Home From the Show**

After the show is over and you have won many prizes, it is time to bring home your show plants. Before you return your plants to your collection, you will want to consider a couple of things:

Are you bringing home more than your plants? To avoid bringing home pests and diseases, it is wise to remove all the bloom from your plants before you return them to their shelves. Either do it at the show, or do it at home, but do it! Visitors to our shows are not as aware of the problem of pests, and unknowingly share their pests with us. Sometimes we have a problem ourselves that turns up later.

Isolate any new plants that you acquire at the show, no matter where they come from. Anyone can get a bug.

You will also want to keep all those wonderful boxes that you found for next year. Find a place to store the best ones if you only have limited space. Good boxes are hard to find and are worth keeping.

From *Chatter*, Journal of the AVS of Canada

# “And the winners are ...”



**Mary J. Corondan**  
7205 Dillon Court  
Plano, TX 75024

**AVC OF GREATER ATLANTA, GA – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Granger's Wonderland, Optimara Barbados, Ode to Beauty, **Jeanette Wallace**. Best Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Teen Thunder, Rob's Whatever; Best Seminiature: Teen Thunder, Best Miniature: Petite Blarney, Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Janice Norton**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Toorooka, Milky Way Trail, Dancin' Trail; Best in Show/Best Standard: Mindi Brooke, **Lois Duvall**.

**AVC OF MORRIS COUNTY, NJ – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Wrangler's Dixie Celebration, Rebel's Charmin' Pink, Miss Ellie; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Red Flash, Precious Pink, Little Pro; Best in Show/Best Standard: Wrangler's Dixie Celebration; Best Miniature: Rob's Jitterbug; Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Bob Kurzynski**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Lyon's Pirate's Treasure, Ode to Beauty, Optimara Tradition; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Dean's Aquarius, Irish Flirt, Best Seminiature: Dean's Aquarius; Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*, Best Design, **Ill Fischer**, Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Kiwi', **Judy Padalino**. Design Sweepstakes, **Karyn Chiochi**.

**AVS OF DAYTON, OH – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Wrangler's Dixie Celebration, Sapphire Halo, Mary Craig; Best in Show/Best Standard: Wrangler's Dixie Celebration; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Strawberry Patch', **Anne Thomas**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Annabelle, Ness' Blue Velvet, Lyon's Midnight Sun, **Thelma Lawson**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Satin Rose, Rob's Scooter, Ness' Crinkle Blue, Best Seminiature: Rob's Scooter, Best Trailer: Tiny Wood Trail, **Cathy Kennedy**. Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet, **Dorothy Rittenhouse**. Best Design, **Mary Everling**.

**AVS OF MINNESOTA, MN – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara California II, Melodie Heather, Rhapsodie Stephanie; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Katherine, Ness' Sno Fun, Boo Man; Best Seminiature: Ness' Puppy Chams; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Crystal; Best Trailer: Rob's Lilly Pilli; Show Sweepstakes, **Kathy Lahti**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rhapsodie Iona, Ness' Candy Pink, Buffalo Hunt; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Cool Fruit, Precious Pink, Rob's Fuzzy Navel; Best in Show/Best Standard: Rebel's Strawberry Blites, Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*, **Ruth Bann**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Blue Waters', **Donna Breen**. Best Design, **Betty Smith**.

**AVS OF SYRACUSE, NY – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rouget, Annabelle, Bertha; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Tutti Frutti, Slow Dancin', Irish Flirt; Best Trailer: Trail Along; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Rusted Rose', **Robin and William Yager**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Voodoo Blue, Orchard's Wonder Twin, Optimara Little Crystal; Best Seminiature: Little Axel; Best Miniature: Rob's Voodoo Blue; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*, **Donna Coleman**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Sapphire Night, **Shirley Mills**. Best Design, **Barbara Ellison**. Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Ethel Champion**.

**BAY STATE AVS, MA – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Buffalo Hunt, Blue Mink, Ness' Coral Sunset; Best in Show/Best Standard: Buffalo Hunt; Best Seminiature: Watermelon Bay; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Susan Gimblet**. Best Miniature: Optimara Rose Quartz, **Betsy Zaorski**. Best Trailer: Sunrise Waltz, **Marie Montague**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia* #299, **Eleanor MacIver**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Cleopatra', **Bob Clark**. Best Design: Design Sweepstakes, **Suzanne Ress**.

**BERGEN COUNTY AVS, NJ – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: New York Glitter, Rhapsodie Marilyn II, Windy Day; Best in Show/Best Standard: Windy Day; Best Trailer: Dazzle Trail; Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Debbie Powell**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Mark, Optimara Arizona, Electra, **Richard Curry**. Best Seminiature: Dangerous, **Barbara Church**. Best Miniature: Optimara Little Amethyst; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Alice's Aussie', **Lee Borey**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Jean Meyer**.

**CAPITAL CITY AVS, CA – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Maggie Lee, Apache Freedom, Lyon's Plum Pudding, **Leona Faoro**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Bertha, Tomahawk, Edith V. Peterson; Best in Show/Best Standard: Bob Serbin; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Oscar Faoro**. Best Seminiature: Rob's Antique Rose, Best Miniature: Rob's Fo Fum; Best Trailer: Peter's Treasure, **Dianna Peterson**; Best

Gesneriad: *Chirita sinensis* 'Hisako', **Patsy Boddy**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Mae Mendes**.

**CAPITAL DISTRICT AVS, NY – Winners:** Best AVSA Seminiature Collection: Rob's Sarsaparilla, Dean's Bunny Blue, Rob's Fuddy Duddy; Best in Show/Best Seminiature: Rob's Sarsaparilla; Best Miniature: Rob's Smarty Pants; Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Margaret Califano**. Best Standard: Hunter Mountain, **Esther Mason**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia* #237, Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Little Pink Pixie', **Heidi Dillenbeck**. Best Design, **Andrea Freeman**. Design Sweepstakes, **Vincent Ozimek**.

**CENTRAL JERSEY AVS, NJ – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Splendiferous, Picturesque, King's Treasure; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Prize, Little Pro, Rob's Fuddy Duddy; Best Trailer: Rob's Toorooka. Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia* #237, Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ron Ennis**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Lollipop Kid, Little Pro, Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Seminiature: Lollipop Kid, **Dale Jasaitis**. Best in Show/Best Standard: April Sky, **Dave Tooker**. Best Miniature: Rob's Tippy Toe; Best Gesneriad: *Trichantha augustifolia*; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Jan Murasko**.

**CINCINNATI AVS, OH – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia orbicularis* var. *purpurea*, *Saintpaulia confusa*, *Saintpaulia grandifolia*. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Little Ruby, Wichita Baby, Orchard's Bumble Magnet; Best in Show/Best Seminiature: Aca's Johnny Redcoat; Best Miniature: Wichita Baby; Best Species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis* var. *purpurea*; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Ruby Red Dress'; Best Design: Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Penny Wichman**. Best Standard: Marvel; Best Trailer: Rambler Dots, **Frank Winstel**.

**COLUMBUS AVS, OH – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Apache Freedom, Ness' Bangle Blue, B-Man's Callanetta; Best in Show/Best Standard: Apache Freedom; Best Seminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Miniature: Petite Jewel; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Mary Martin**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Anastasia, Apache Victory, Royal Flair, **Mary Bolyard**. Best Trailer: Honeysuckle Rose, **Audrey Trozell**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Ronnie', **Jean Robine**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Janice Beatty**.

**THE DELAWARE AVS, DE – Winners:** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Snuggles, Teen Sweetheart, Rob's Gray Ghost; Best Seminiature: Pink Skies; Best Species: *Saintpaulia magunensis*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Libby Behnke**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Optimara Connecticut; Best Miniature/Best Trailer: Teeny Bopper, **Barbara LaFashia**. Best Gesneriad: *Chirita sinensis* 'Hisako', **Pat Webber**. Best Design, **Terry Celano**. Design Sweepstakes, **Carol Callaghan**.

**FIRST HALIFAX AVS, NOVA SCOTIA – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Picasso, Tomahawk, Optimara Leonardo Davinci; Best in Show/Best Standard: Picasso; Best Seminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita tamiana*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ina Beaver**. Best Miniature: Aca's Pink Pet, **Agnes Greer**. Best Trailer: Pixie Trail, **Helen Braver**. Best Design: Design Sweepstakes, **Audrey Moir**.

**GARDEN STATE AVS, NJ – Winners:** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Gizmo, Snuggles Little Dreamer, Rob's Boondoggle; Best Seminiature: Rob's Boondoggle; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Fred Hill**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Optimara Hawaii; Best Miniature: Rob's Rinky Dink, **Lionel Gaylord**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia* #299; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita* 'Aiko', **Elizabeth Tan**. Best Design, **Rose Swiatecki**. Design Sweepstakes, **Dorothy Kamaras**.

**GLENVIEW/NORTH SHORE AVS, IL – Winners:** Best Trailer: Perk Up; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Susie'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Barbara Goodsell**. Best in Show/Best Seminiature: Orchard's Night Lights; Best Miniature: Frosted Denim; Best Design, **Sue Schroeder**. Design Sweepstakes (tie), **Barbara Goodsell** and **Claudia Golab**.

**HEART OF MISSOURI AVS, MO – Winners:** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Lilly Pilli, Rob's Boolaroo, Rob's Humpty Doo; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, Design Sweepstakes, **Peggy Payne**. Best in Show/Best Seminiature: Rob's Hallucination; Best Standard: Optimara Tradition; Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*, **Catherine Ross**. Best Gesneriad: *Kohleria* 'Flash Dance', **Dorothy Anderson**.

**ILLINOIS AVS, INC., IL – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rain Man, Picasso, L'Ambarassard; Best in Show/Best Standard: Rain Man; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Heaven Sent'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Gary Mikita**, 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia ionantha*, *Saintpaulia orbicularis* var. *purpurea*, *Saintpaulia grandifolia* #237; Best Trailer: Champagne Pink, **Morgan Simmons**, Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Boggeman, Rob's Boondoggle, Rob's Heat Wave; Best Seminiature: Rob's Boondoggle, **Susan Andresen**, 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Classic Rock, Rob's Fuddy Duddy, Beginner's Luck, **Andrea Worrell**, Best Design: **Carril Allegretti**.

**LAKEHORE AVS OF TORONTO, ON – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Alamo Red, Kris, Albany Sunset; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Twinkle Pink, Beginner's Luck, Orchard's Night Light; Best in Show/Best Standard: Albany Sunset, **Tony Hulleman**, 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Harbor Blue, Ward Brown, Marching Band, **Robin Cotton**, Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fiddle Faddle, Rob's Cool Fruit, Ness' Cranberry Swirl; Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Beverly Williams**, Best Miniature: Rob's Bee Boopie, **Sandra Lex**, Best Species: *Saintpaulia nitida*, **Bill Price**, Best Gesneriad: *Chirita sclerophylla*, **Carolyn Conlin-Lane**, Best Design: Design Sweepstakes, **Nancy Lex**.

**LATE BLOOMERS AVC OF SOUTHERN WISCONSIN, WI – Winners:** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Irish Flirt, Optimara Little Seminole; Best in Show/Best Seminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Standard: Jazzy Jewel; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Janus'; Best Design: Horticulture Sweepstakes: Design Sweepstakes, **Shirley Streit**, Best Miniature: Optimara Little Diamond, **Mable Lewis**, Best Trailer: Princess Trail, **Carole Zimmerman**.

**LONG ISLAND AVS, NY – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Harbor Blue, The Alps, Marching Band; Best in Show/Best Standard: Vintage Lace; Best Trailer: Rob's Wooloomooloo; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Anita Rudolph**, 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia ionantha*, *Saintpaulia velutina*, *Saintpaulia diplochila* Punter #10; Best Miniature: Damas; Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*, **Paula McDonald**, Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Red Flash, Rob's Pink Stain, Blue Silhouette; Best Seminiature: Blue Silhouette, **Lois Szorak**, Best Gesneriad: *Columnnea* 'Julia', **Dale Marcus**, Best Design: Design Sweepstakes, **Diane Lohan**.

**METROPOLITAN ST. LOUIS AVS COUNCIL, MO – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Candy Pink, Bernha, Phobos; Best in Show/Best Standard: Ness' Candy Pink, **Marion Hamtill**, 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Favorite Child, Ness' Candy Pink, Aca's Coral Beauty; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Sno Fun, Optimara Little Cherokee, Snuggles Little Dreamer; Best Gesneriad: *Columnnea* 'Light Prince'; Best Design: Design Sweepstakes, **Fran Russum**, Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Dust Storm, Aunt Georgia, Slow Dancin'; Best Seminiature: Aunt Georgia, **Susan Hapner**, Best Miniature: Orchard's Wonder Twin, **Janet Graves**, Best Trailer: Rob's Lilly Pilli, **Barbara Fisher**, Best Species: *Saintpaulia* House of Amani; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Gary Dunlap**.

**MILWAUKEE AVS, WI – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ode to Beauty, Optimara Jo, Geromino, **Bozidar Berginc**, Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Rob's Blue Light, Rob's Boogie Woogie; Best in Show/Best Seminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Best Standard: Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler; Best Miniature: Petite Jewel, **Anna Berginc**, Best Species: *Saintpaulia intermedia*, **Mickey Eberle**, Best Gesneriad: *Smithiantha* 'Zebrina'; Best Design: Horticulture Sweepstakes: Design Sweepstakes, **Joan Wilson**.

**NORTH STAR AVS COUNCIL, MN – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Royal Flair, Graffiti, Alice Corinne; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Jitterbug, Ness' Angel Babe, Petite Fantasy; Best Miniature: Petite Fantasy; Best Trailer: Jora Pink Snow; Best Design: Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Barbara Werness**, Best in Show/Best Standard: Rebel's Cucumber Kool; Best Seminiature: Rebel's Meg; Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*, **Ruth Bann**, Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Bright Eyes', **Sandy Officer**, Design Sweepstakes, **Kathleen MacNeil**.

**OMAHA AVS, NE – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Floozie, Phantom Flash, Smooch Me; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Aunt Georgia, Classic Rock, Irish Flirt; Best in Show/Best Seminiature: Classic Rock; Best Standard: Phantom Flash; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ken Stork**, 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Pathfinder, Tropical Heat Wave, Colette, **Joyce Stork**, 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Rob's Boogie Woogie, Definitely Darryl; Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Cleopatra', **Nancy Horan**, Best Design: Design Sweepstakes, **B. J. Ohme**.

**OSHKOSH VS, WI – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Powwow, Ness' Coral Sunset, Kev's Heavenly Star; Best Standard: Ness' Rhubarb Frost, **Kevin Degner**, Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Rob's Boogie Woogie, Sassy Sister, **Ebe Schreiber**, 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Voodoo Blue, Ness' Angel Babe, Orchard's Bumble Magnet; Best in Show/Best Seminiature: Rob's Boogie Woogie; Best Trailer: Rob's Lilly Pilli; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Betty Schreiber**, Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet; Best Design: Design Sweepstakes, **Betsy Fox**, Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*, Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus kentaniensis*, **Bill Greider**.

**PARMATOWN AVC, OH – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Michelangelo, Optimara Ontario, Wendy; Best Trailer: Rob's Humpty Doo; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia*; Best Gesneriad: *Petrosaenea forestii*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Linda Neumann**, Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Rob's Bo Peep, Rob's Seduction; Best Standard: Vintage Wine, **Martha Bell**, Best in Show/Best Seminiature: Rob's Hallucination; Best Miniature: Pink Dove, **Marion Tisdale**, Best Design: Design Sweepstakes, **Michelle Grove**.

**ROCHESTER N.Y. AVS, NY – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Omaha Thunder, Picasso, Maggie Lee; Best in Show/Best Standard: Frosty Springs; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia* #237; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Tiger Stripe', **Olive Robinson**, Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fuddy Duddy, Rob's Calypso Beat, Rob's Bambooize, Best Seminiature: Rob's Fuddy Duddy; Best Miniature: Rob's Jitterbug; Best Trailer: Rob's Galivinku; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ralph Robinson**, 2nd Best AVSA

Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Doohickey, Petite Cher, Planet Kid, **Fay Wagman**, Best Design: Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara Feistenstein**.

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN AVS COUNCIL, CO – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rodeo Country, Edelweiss, Rebel's Splatler Kake; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Little Pearl, Optimara Little Crystal, Rob's Twinkle Pink; Best Standard: Rodeo Country; Best Miniature: Mickey Mouse; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Sirius'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Nelly Levine**, Best Seminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Shirley Mitchell**, Best Trailer: Marion's Enchanted Trail; Best Species: *Saintpaulia shumensis*, **Frank Ratte**, Best Design: Design Sweepstakes, **Coleen Clark**.

**SAN MATEO COUNTY AVS, CA – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Makin' Romance, Melodie Kimi, Wild Irish Rose; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Satin Rose, Boggeman, Rob's Dandy Lion, **Carolee Carter**, Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Frosty Fun, Ness' Crinkle Blue, Rob's Boogie Woogie; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Lil Runaround; Best Seminiature: Rob's Boogie Woogie; Best Miniature: Optimara Rose Quartz; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Gary Beck**, Best Standard: Rapid Transit, **Peggy Gensel**, Best Species: *Saintpaulia difficilis*, **Madeline Taube**, Best Gesneriad: *Chirita perotopoda*; Best Design, **Heather Morgan**, Design Sweepstakes, **Sam McKenna**.

**SOCIETE DES SAINTPAULIA DE MONTREAL, QC – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Winter Ice, Frosted Whisper, Picasso, **Clement Perreault**, 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Favorite Child, There's, Midnight Treasure; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Little Pro, Rob's Dandy Lion, Rob's Mad Cat; Best Seminiature: Little Pro; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Annie Simard**, Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Match Point, Rob's Seduction, Sky Blue; Best in Show/Best Standard: Phobos; Best Miniature: Ami Peanut, **Miriel Gagnon**, Best Trailer: Pixie Trail; Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*, **Pierre LaForest**, Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Falling Star', **Johanne Fortin**, Best Design: Design Sweepstakes, **Marie Bellemur**.

**STAMPEDE CITY AVS, AB – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Perhaps Love, Ode to Beauty, Phobos; Best Seminiature: Precious Pink, **Gertrud Schneider**, 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Sea Drift, Happy Cricket, Suncoast Paisley Print; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Lynn Moore**, Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Beacon Trail, Cirdela, Honey Trail; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Beacon Trail, **Jean Melnychuk**, 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Heat Wave, Rob's Antique Rose, Rob's Dust Storm, **Robert McCabe**, Best Miniature: Rob's Twinkle Blue, **Winston Goresky**, Best Species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis*, Best Gesneriad: *Chirita species USBRG 98-083*, **Bill Price**, Best Design, **Maida den Ouden**, Design Sweepstakes, **Judy Eddy**.

**THIMBLE ISLANDS AVS, CT – Winners:** Best in Show/Best Standard: Silver Smoke; Best Seminiature: Rob's Sarsaparilla; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Lord Faunleroy'; Best Design: Show Sweepstakes, **Nancy Gilson**, Best Miniature: Rob's Penny Ante, **Richard Bower**.

**UNPREDICTABLE AVS, MO – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rodeo Country, Kathe Denise, Dancin' Fool; Best in Show/Best Standard: Rodeo Country; Best Trailer: Rob's Lilly Pilli, **Sue Hull**, Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Boolaroo, Cookie Trail, Milky Way Trail; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Kim'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Katsuko Davison**, 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Heat Wave, Rob's Whoa Nellie, Rob's Snake Charmer; Best Seminiature: Rob's Snake Charmer; Best Miniature: Aly's Blizzard Bunny; Best Species: *Saintpaulia confusa*, **Wilma Wolvertson**, Best Design, **Linda Golubski**, Design Sweepstakes, **Deanna Loeffler**.

**VENTURA COUNTY AVS, CA – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Fisherman's Paradise, Gail, Ness' Bangle Blue; Best in Show/Best Standard: Fisherman's Paradise, **Adrienne Stringer**, Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Pat Champagne, Definitely Darryl; Best Seminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet, **Ann Wang**, 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Rob's Dust Storm, Rob's Denim Demon; Best Trailer: Marion's Enchanted Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Robert Seaton**, Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula* var. *kizcarae*, **Barbara Nussear**, Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Cleopatra'; Best Design: Design Sweepstakes, **Leslie Cox**.

**WANDERING AV ENTHUSIASTS SOCIETY, MO – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: East Wind, Designer Dress, Annabelle, **Pat Dunlap**, 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia difficilis*, *Saintpaulia intermedia*, *Saintpaulia groeti*; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Everdina, Knight Magic, Rob's Club Soda; Best Seminiature: Ness' Grape Flizz; Best Miniature: Misty Mies; Best Species: *Saintpaulia difficilis*; Best Design: Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Gary Dunlap**, Best in Show/Best Standard: Optimara Grenada II; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Texas Hot Chili', **Carla Yambert**, Design Sweepstakes (tie); **Gary Dunlap** and **Pat Dunlap**.

**WINDSOR AVS, CT – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Mindi's Tears, Wild Irish Rose, Private Dancer; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Cool Fruit, Struggles Rising Star, Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best in Show/Best Standard: Mindi's Tears; Best Seminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Miniature: Silly Girl; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Paper Moon', **Sylvia Taub**, 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rhapsodie Rosalie, Ness' Viking Frost, Ness' Coral Sunset; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Texas Space Dust, Orchard's Bumble Magnet, Mini-ha-ha; Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Charlotte Howson**, Best Trailer: Pixie Blue, **Cindy Fagan**, Best Design: Design Sweepstakes, **Marcia Kilpatrick**.

My apologies to the Georgia African Violet Judges' Society for omitting the following winners in the March/April 2002 column.

**GEORGIA AV JUDGES' SOCIETY, GA – Winners:** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fuzzy Navel, Rob's Snake Charmer, Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Seminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Janice Norton**, Best in Show/Best Standard: Raspberry Swirl, **Kay Redhorse**, Best Miniature: Gleeful Elf, **Jerry Norton**.

# You Can Grow A Showplant

by Sue Gardner

Have you selected a plant to grow for the show? You may feel that you have none suitable. However, there are several months before the show, so you have time to take a plant and prepare it. Let's review the criteria for selecting a plant.

**The first is form and symmetry.** We want to grow a plant with a symmetrical flat rosette of leaves. No soil or petioles should be visible. To achieve this, avoid plants with the following tendencies:

1. Leaves which curl or twist.
2. Leaves which flop over rim of pot.
3. Plants which sucker a lot.
4. Leaves which mark easily.
5. Long, thin, or cupped leaves (allowing soil and petioles to be seen).
6. Heavily ruffled leaves.

Choose one of your plants which grows well in your conditions. Look for one with at least three rows of leaves, as it will be easier to assess its potential. The leaves should overlap and the outer row should form a circle. Don't judge too harshly, however, as we will discuss how to train their foliage to the best possible shape.

**The second point to consider is bloom quantity.** To produce a large head of flowers we need to check that the plant has the following characteristics:

1. Numerous bloom stalks.
2. Many flowers per bloom stalk.
3. Flowers not too heavy (or they will droop).
4. Flowers that do not fade quickly.
5. Flowers that present a pleasing contrast with their foliage.
6. Flowers that don't drop.

Now we will prepare our plant for re-potting.

You may not want to repot until the end of winter if the weather is very cold; if your home is warm, you may repot at the beginning to give your plants an extra few weeks to grow larger before the show.

1. Remove all yellow or badly damaged leaves. These leaves are of no benefit to the plant and if left on for a show would lose points. Make sure no petiole stubs are left after removal.
2. Remove all immature leaves. In a show, you will lose one point for each baby leaf left on a plant. However, if removal of one baby leaf spoils the symmetry, leave it on as more points are lost for lack of symmetry.
3. Remove any leaves that spoil the symmetry of the leaf pattern. If you keep your plant symmetrical during its early life, it will tend to stay symmetrical. Form and symmetry

make up 30% of points in show judging, so it is important.

4. Remove all side-shoots/suckers. Suckers cause the plant to grow out of shape and could cost up to ten points in a show. This may leave a neck on your plant but do not despair! We are now going to re-pot this plant.

## Repotting

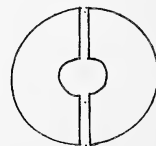
Remove your plant from the pot and check the root-ball for pests, etc. If the plant is healthy, gently remove surplus potting mix. Select a suitable pot - making sure it is one size larger than the rootball. Do not use an excessively large pot. A shallow bowl is best for a prospective large flowering show plant. Write the name of the plant neatly on the side of the pot, put a wick in place, lower the plant into the pot, and loosely fill with fresh potting mix. You may like to water sparingly with tepid water containing plant starter to help promote fresh root growth. You now must wipe the pot clean and brush off any dust, dirt, or potting mix left on the leaves. Sometimes a wash with warm water can remove dirt easily. Make sure you don't saturate the potting mix by tilting the plant and allowing the warm water to run across the outer rows of leaves. If any water does collect in center of plant, mop it up with a tissue.

You now need to start training your plant to be a show plant!

## Training

1. If your plant has leaves that are not in a symmetrical pattern, you can use training aids such as clothes pegs or stakes to gently push them into better position. If you use clothes pegs, clip them on the rim of the pot.
2. If the petioles tend to sag over the edge of the pot, you can use a collar to train the petioles to hold a horizontal position. You can use a plastic-coated paper plate cut in half as shown below.

Insert the two pieces of plate under the outer leaves of the plant and rest them on the pot so that they support the leaves and prevent the petioles from being damaged by the pot rim.



## Controlling Flowering

You can train your plants to flower in great profusion for a show by disbudding them for several months beforehand. If

this upsets you too much, leave one flower stalk only, and enjoy a few flowers while gaining most of the benefits of dis-budding. Also, if you disbud it gives your plant a good opportunity to grow a well-formed, symmetrical rosette of leaves. Then, when the plant flowers you have a perfect example of an African violet. You may disbud plants until six to eight weeks before a show.

### Fertilizer

Use a high nitrogen fertilizer for several weeks to produce good strong foliage. It must contain some phosphorus and potassium as well as trace elements for your plant to stay healthy.

During the tenth, ninth and eighth weeks before the show, use a high phosphorus fertilizer, a "bloom booster". Use the show countdown schedule to keep track of when to make these changes. Leach potting mix by pouring plain water

through and draining well every four to six weeks.

### Position

1. Place your plant in a good light for about twelve hours per day.
2. Turn the plant every few days if it is in natural light to prevent it growing unevenly.
3. Make sure your plant is not too cold or too hot or in a draft.

If you grow under fluorescent lights, you may increase light hours by one hour per week from the tenth week before show until you have reached fifteen hours per day.

Continue to train and groom your plant according to your show schedule and you will have a great entry for the show.

From the *Newsletter* of the  
Early Morn AV Group, Australia and New Zealand



# 2003 Convention Carnival Season and Mardi Gras

by Elmer Godeny

The theme of the Friday night banquet at the Baton Rouge Convention will be "Mardi Gras". Therefore, I thought I would familiarize convention goers with the customs of Mardi Gras.

Mardi Gras has its roots based in the Catholic religion which was very prominent in Louisiana history. The Carnival Season begins on twelfth night, twelve days after Christmas. This day, January 6, celebrates the arrival of the wise men to the birth place of Christ. The final day of Carnival Season is Mardi Gras, or Fat Tuesday. Pope Gregory XIII placed Mardi Gras on the calendar as a Christian holiday in 1582. He placed Mardi Gras on the day before Ash Wednesday, which begins the Lenten season in preparation of Easter. That way, all the debauchery would be finished before it came time to fast and pray. Because Easter Sunday varies from year to year, the actual date of Mardi Gras, which occurs forty six days prior to Easter, also varies. However, Mardi Gras always occurs between February 3 and March 9.

Although many people associate Mardi Gras with New Orleans and debauchery, the Carnival Season is celebrated throughout all of Louisiana, as well as other Southern cities, and has many traditions associated with it. The official colors of Mardi Gras are purple, green, and gold: purple for justice, green for faith, and gold for power.

Krewes are Carnival clubs which stage parades and Mardi Gras Balls, or Bal Masques. The krewe's royalty for the upcoming year are presented at the Bal Masque, which are usually by invitation only. Parades occur throughout the

Carnival Season and are sponsored by the various Mardi Gras Krewes. The parade floats carry krewe members and their guests in their Carnival costumes with lots of sequins and feathers. People line the streets of the parade routes yelling, "Throw me something, Mister", to attract the attention of krewe members so they will toss some "throws" their way. "Throws" are usually plastic beads but may include doubloons (plastic or metal coins), toys, underwear, coconuts, etc. It is amazing what people will do to go home with some "throws".

The last tradition of Carnival Season is the "King Cake" which is a round doughy cake filled with creme cheese and cinnamon or fruit fillings. Purple, green and gold sugar icing covers the king cake. The cake gets its name from "Kings' Day" or twelfth night. Originally, a bean was placed inside the cake to determine who would reign as king for the banquet. However, today, the bean has been replaced by a tiny plastic baby to symbolize the Baby Jesus. Finding the baby in the King Cake is supposed to bring luck. However, in recent years, if you didn't break your teeth on the baby, finding the baby means that you supply the next King Cake, or possibly that the next party is at your place.

Carnival Season and Mardi Gras are a fun time in Louisiana and especially in New Orleans. This time of year is filled with revelry and good times for all. Although the 2003 AVSA Convention will be held after Mardi Gras, it is almost impossible to come to Louisiana and not get a taste of Carnival year round.

# Through the Looking Glass

by Sharon E. Johnson

Terrariums have made a comeback. There are two basic styles, one with a removable top, and one that is solid with an opening in the top or side. The one with a removable top has a very shallow planting area and probably needs a liner going up the side to hold additional soil. It may also dry out quickly. If the solid type has a small opening, it could be difficult to plant and clean. The solid type would probably look nicer if you lined it with moss before adding your soil, which could make for some interesting moments.

They also come in many neutral colors, or white. Whichever style you get, **MAKE SURE YOU CAN LIFT IT!**

A terrarium should fog up twice a day, in the morning and evening. Add water a little at a time. An excess amount of water is nearly impossible to remove. A terrarium should always look immaculately clean. It says you cared and tried. Your plant material should look very well groomed. Never place a terrarium in the direct sunlight because the plants will burn. You should be able to keep a terrarium attractive for about four months. After that, the plants usually become too big, and algae will form on the bottom. Many miniature sinningias love terrariums.

The first thing you will need to do is get out the schedule to make sure what the title is. Review the rules of the schedule; does it require a certain plant material, are mirrors allowed or disallowed, is there a size restriction, etc.?

## PLANTS

When choosing your plants, don't use too many colorful plants. Instead, go for leaf texture. If a plant is too tall, you can cut it off at a branch; or if there are many plants in a pot, you can separate them. Remove any burned edges. Milk will cut through spray residue on leaves, but you must do it leaf by leaf.

When choosing your violet, try not to pick a dark flower because it is a recessive color and they tend to not show up in gardens. If you do not have an appropriate violet, you can purchase one before the show. You may have to remove many rows of leaves to get the violet the size that you want. If you wrap the root ball in a nylon hose, it will keep the roots together, yet provide moisture for the plants, assuming the rest of the soil is damp. All plants must be removed from their pots and planted. No cut plant material, the American flag, or live animals is allowed.

Plants must never touch the top of a terrarium, can touch the sides, but should not deform the natural shape of a leaf. The height should be a little above the halfway mark.

It is optional if you want to line the bottom and sides of the terrarium with moss, but you may want to place some on the top, covering the soil. When adding moss, add a little at a time. I like to work with it damp because it doesn't leave residue on all the plants. Aquarium rocks are another good ground cover, as well as pine bark, gravel, ivy moss, or even moss from your yard.

After planting a terrarium, use long tweezers with cotton to remove loose soil on the walls and plants. Immediately before a show, do a final grooming and be sure to remove any spent blossoms on the violet.

## ACCESSORIES

When choosing accessories be sure they are small. It is fun to "hide" them behind a plant or leaf. **LESS IS BEST....WHEN IN DOUBT, LEAVE IT OUT!** Never use any valuable or family heirloom accessory because many have been stolen during shows. If you really want to use something valuable, glue it down!

Rocks in terrariums can become very heavy. A good alternative is pine bark. You can always stabilize it by gluing to a stick.

## RIVERS AND LAKES

Many schedules call for a river or a lake. This can be done using many creative items such as small rocks, a small bowl filled with water, paraffin wax, pre-colored candle wax, melted crayon, or cellophane wrap crinkled up. Clear window or door caulking added in layers takes on a milky color, or use aquarium stones and mirrors, etc. Be sure to do your river or lake ahead of time.

## JUDGING TERRARIUMS

The AVSA scale of points for judging container gardens are:

1. Landscape plan . . . . . 40 points
2. Suitability of materials . . . . . 20 points
3. Condition of materials . . . . . 20 points
4. Cultural perfection . . . . . 10 points
5. Relation to container . . . . . 10 points

### 1. Landscape plan

The concepts of good design should be followed. The combinations of materials should be harmonious, and there should be contrast of texture, size, color, and height to add interest. The size of the plants or foliage should be in reasonable proportion to each other.

### 2. Suitability of materials

Accessories should be appropriate to the class title, the type of planting, and reasonably scaled to the size of the container and each other.

### 3. Condition of materials

Plants should be properly groomed and the container and accessories should be clean. Terrariums should be free of scratches, soil particles, and stains!

### 4. Cultural perfection

Plants should be well grown and free of pests and diseases. African violets should have a "reasonable" amount of bloom. Plants should not be leggy or leaning in one direction.

### 5. Relation to container

Consideration must be given to the size and amount of planted material in proportion to the container. Also, the color and texture of the container in relation to the plants and landscape style should be considered. The container should not dominate the plant material in size, color, or texture.

I enjoy making terrariums because I can make them ahead of a show, and it is a decorative asset afterwards in my home.

From *The Violeteer*, publication of the North Star AV Council



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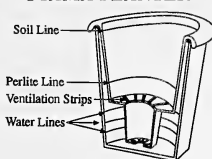
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# African Violet

*The magazine exclusively dedicated to the growing of beautiful African violets.*

November • December 2002

Volume 55

Number 6



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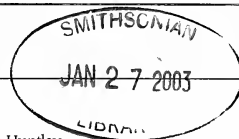
November • December

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### COVER

#### Optical Illusion

Best New Cultivar

2002 AVSA National Show

Exhibited and Hybridized by:

**Paul Sorano**

Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretzky

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### OFFICERS:

**Jack Wilson**, President  
10007 Bent Tree Ln., Manassas, VA 20111  
email: cagmo@aol.com

**Janet Riemer**, 1st VP  
256 Pennington-Harbourton Rd.  
Pennington, NJ 08534-4007  
email: JTRiemer@aol.com

**Linda Owens**, 2nd VP  
1762 Stemwood Dr., Columbus, OH 43228  
email: Ldowens215@aol.com

**Joyce Stork**, 3rd VP  
2501 E. 23rd Ave. S, Fremont, NE 68025  
email: kents@tvsonline.net

**Sue Ramser**, Secretary  
2413 Martin, Wichita Falls, TX 76308  
email: ramserwf@wf.net

**Gary Gordon**, Treasurer  
120 Brinkwood Rd., Brookville, MD 20833  
email: ggordon120@aol.com

**Bill Foster**, Immediate Past President  
3610 Gray Drive, Mesquite, TX 75150  
email: bpfoster@airmail.net

### STAFF:

**Ruth Rumsey**, Editor  
2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702  
email: rumsey@earthlink.net

**Judith Carter**, Advertising Manager  
1825 W. Lincoln St., Broken Arrow, OK 74012  
email: AVMads@msn.com

**Barbara Pershing**, Publications  
8134 Buck Ridge, Cedar Falls, IA 50613  
email: barbara.pershing@uni.edu

**Floyd Lawson**, Best Varieties, Honor Roll  
1100 W. Huntington Dr., #21, Arcadia, CA 91007  
email: floydll@earthlink.net

**Anna Jean Landgren**, Tally Time  
20 Calvin Circle, Evanston, IL 60301  
email: geojl@aol.com

Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.



# President's Message



Dear AVSA Members,

This issue of the *AVM* covers the months of November and December. Both months have deep religious and family significance. We all have much to be thankful for. These holidays provide us the opportunity to share and celebrate with our families and friends. As you gather with families and friends, give each other an extra hug.

I recently was asked to give a program at a regional convention. Since I was given free rein for the subject, I said I'd talk about my 46 years of growing African violets. I decided I'd talk about what has happened in the violet world and the people I'd met along the way. Preparing for the program required that I review back issues of the *African Violet Magazine*. I spent many, many hours putting that program together. You wouldn't believe how much time that I spent looking at those old issues and remembering events and people. I was often reminded how many dear friends I've made because of a little plant that we all enjoy.

While most of the effort was a very pleasant experience, it also had its moments of reflection and sadness. Sadness because I read about many of our violet friends who are no longer with us. Just a couple of days ago, I received word that Don Ness died. He was a tremendous hybridizer and valued violet friend. He will be missed. Jean has our thoughts and prayers.

2002 has been a tough year for the violet community. The wonderful thing about AVSA is that the contributions of folks like Don Ness, Frank Tinari, Bill Lyons, and Ralph Breden, to name only a few, will continue to bring joy and beauty to violet growers for generations to come.

We are about at the mid-point between AVSA conventions. This time last year, I was excited about the Washington convention. We were not disappointed. It was great. Now we are anxiously looking ahead to Baton Rouge. I expect it to be one of the biggest in recent memory. The prices are right, it is easy to get to for most of the country, and the Louisiana hospitality will be tops.

The January *AVM* will have the show schedule and convention program. They give just a hint of what a convention is all about. There will be tours to local areas of interest, lectures and workshops on violet related subjects, an auction, and great Louisiana food. And of course, there will be many commercial members offering the latest varieties and supplies. What will be the most fun will be seeing old friends and making new ones.

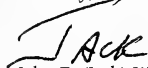
We still need your help in increasing our membership numbers. Each member needs to take this as a personal task. Looks for ways each of you can get a new member for AVSA and also how your affiliate or club can obtain new members. Memberships make great gifts for the holidays. I'm sure you have a friend or relative who would be excited to receive a subscription to the *AVM*. It is a constant reminder of your love and friendship throughout the year. Affiliates can give gift subscriptions to libraries and rest homes. Nancy Hayes, our Membership and Promotion Chairman, would appreciate your sharing of "success" stories.

As your clubs and affiliates are setting the year's budgets, don't forget AVSA. Expenses continue to climb. We want to continue to provide the many services you obtain through AVSA membership. We have the Booster Fund, which is a general fund for unexpected requirements. The Boyce Edens Research Fund funds our research projects. The Building Maintenance Fund takes care of our AVSA office. For example, we just had the building power washed to remove mildew resulting from Beaumont's very hot and wet summer.

My wife, Pat, and I, the Executive Committee, your AVSA Board of Directors, the Committee Chairs and members all wish you the best of holidays. We wish you a joyous and happy season.



Sincerely,

  
John E. (Jack) WILSON  
AVSA President

# Editor's Notes



Ruth Rumsey • 2375 North Street • Beaumont, Texas 77702  
(409) 839-4725 • email [rumssey@earthlink.net](mailto:rumssey@earthlink.net)

We appreciate the concern of those who called the office to see that we survived Hurricane Lili. This storm managed to make a turn, instead of heading straight for Beaumont as previously predicted. Hopefully, with the cooler temperatures we are now experiencing, hurricane season will have come to an end.

With the holidays approaching, please remember that the gift of a membership to AVSA is always appreciated.

In this issue we have a very informative report on one of the projects funded by our Boyce Edens Research Fund. Color photographs are on page 40 to accompany the article, "The Conservation status of *Saintpaulia teitensis* B.L. Burt (Taita African Violet) in the forests of the Taita Hills, Kenya", by researchers **Gerard Hertel** and **Kamau Wakanene Mbuthia**.

This is a fine example of your research dollars, contributions to BERF, at work.

From our friends in the Victoria AVS, Victoria, Texas, we have an article on page 17. "Potting Mix - Why We Use What We Use" which offers an explanation for the list of ingredients commonly used in African violet mixes, and the function of each.

**Dr. Steven Schiff**, of New Jersey, has contributed an article on "Selective Breeding", found on page 18, and **Libby Watkins** of Illinois shares advice on "Sowing African Violet & Gesneriad Seed" on page 46.

AVSA's Best Variety List for 2002 is on page 44. **Floyd Lawson** has compiled this list of favorites from choices submitted by AVSA members. The list will come in handy when making your next "wish list".

When planning the publicity for your spring shows, remember that there are many cost-effective ways to advertise. Most areas have a "community calendar" segment on local television and radio stations, which are free of charge. Local garden centers are usually very receptive to displaying a notice about local plant displays, shows, and sales. Contact your local and regional newspapers a couple of months before your show

and ask them to run a feature story in the Sunday gardening section. This provides excellent publicity for your show and sale, and also for AVSA. Remember that I have a brief article on the history of our organization that I will send you, as well as color slides or photographs we can loan the newspaper.

Is there a topic you would like to see covered in an issue of the AVM? Please forward your suggestions to me, and if you have an idea that you would like to share, please consider writing an article. You may have noticed that we are focusing more on growing information than personal stories, but our members are always receptive to new ideas and methods for all growers, from novice to the veteran show winner. I encourage you to submit photographs to the AVM as well. I have been surprised how well some of the digital submissions from members have turned out.

Those of you in charge of ordering library materials for your club programs must remember to make inquiries and reservations IN WRITING. Please do NOT call the office to see what slide program or video is available. Library rentals are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. Be sure to list three selections on your reservation request. You may reserve library materials by FAX 409-839-4329, email [avsas@earthlink.net](mailto:avsas@earthlink.net), and US mail, AVSA Library, 2375 North St., Beaumont, TX 77702.

Coming Event notices MUST be received in WRITING by the deadlines listed in the inside front cover of this publication. They may also be sent by the methods listed above for library materials. If a notice does not reach me by the deadline, it will not appear in the magazine.

If you have last minute changes to your event notice, I will do my best to accommodate you, but these changes must also be made in writing. Please adhere to the deadlines. A change in the production schedule of the AVM ensures that more of our members are receiving their magazines in a timely manner.

I hope your holidays are full of love and laughter!



# Office Update



Jenny Daugereau • AVSA Office Administrative Coordinator

2375 North St.  
Beaumont, TX 77702  
email [avsa@earthlink.net](mailto:avsa@earthlink.net)

(409) 839-4725  
(800) 770-2872

The office has had a busy summer! The new First Class Version 2 is out, and many of you have ordered it from the office. It has been a real hot seller. Joe Bruns did a wonderful job on this project, and we appreciate it very much. Check your magazine for order information.

If you have access to the Internet, please visit our web site: [avsa.org](http://avsa.org). Jim Owens has donated countless hours of work and is adding pictures of plants as he keeps the site updated.

We also have a CD Rom of the Washington, DC convention available. If you missed the convention, or if you just want to relive it again, you may purchase a copy of this CD from the office. The cost is \$9.95 U.S., or \$14.95 International.

The AVSA has worked hard to keep the cost of the magazine as low as possible. With the increases in the cost of mailing and publication, we were forced to increase membership dues. We feel the magazine and membership are well worth the cost and hope you do too.

It is almost time to renew Affiliate Liability Insurance again. In mid-November we will be sending notices to all Affiliate Presidents. It is important to remember that most shopping malls where many of you have your local shows and many of the affiliate meeting places are now requiring this insurance. Because AVSA buys a blanket policy for our affiliates, this cost is much lower than it would be individually. Please make sure the insurance renewal form gets to the right

person. Don't wait until the last minute before a show to get your insurance. Plan ahead. If you wait until the final weeks before your event, you may not be able to get insurance in time. At this time I do not know what the exact cost will be, but I do anticipate a small increase.

I hope you all have a nice holiday season, and remember an AVSA membership makes a great gift!

Please add these to your Judges List:

## Florida

- x Catherine Carter, 12833 Vista Pine Cir, Fort Meyers, 33913-7977

## Maryland

- j Ken Barbi, 1809 View Top Ct., Annapolis, 21401-5873
- j Susan Barbi, 1809 View Top Ct., Annapolis, 21401-5873

## Minnesota

- s Donna Breen, 825 Rockview Ct., Duluth 55804-1912
- j Ellen Frilseth, 719 Emerald Rd., Roseville, 55113-6736
- s Paul Hussa, 2400 Kyle Ave N., Golden Valley 55422-3627

## Wisconsin

- s Betty Smith, 1850 River Ridge Rd., Hudson, 54016-2270

## Attention Club Program Chairmen:

ALL library slide and video requests **MUST** be submitted in **WRITING**.

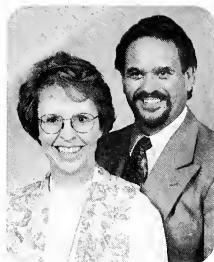
**PLEASE DO NOT** call the office to inquire about availability.

ALL library materials are rented on a first-come, first-served basis. These are reserved in the order in which we receive the **WRITTEN REQUESTS**.

When sending in your request, include your top three choices.

Your request **MUST** reach the AVSA office at least **THREE WEEKS** before your program is scheduled. Otherwise, we cannot guarantee delivery by your program date.

You may send in your request by **FAX** (409-839-4329), email ([avsa@earthlink.net](mailto:avsa@earthlink.net)), or **US** postal service (AVSA Library, 2375 North St, Beaumont, TX 77702).



**Kent and Joyce Stork**  
2501 E. 23rd Ave. S.  
Fremont NE 68025  
kents@tvsonline.net

## A VIOLET GROWER'S WISH LIST

Beginning to grow African violets isn't all that complicated. All you need is an African violet, water, and light. But as time passes, you might notice that some of the best growers have some specialized equipment and chemicals that seem to help them excel. Since we are nearing a holiday season of gift giving, this seems like a good time to detail what might be in a perfect plant room for African violets.

### **Lighting Equipment**

***Fluorescent light unit*** - Whether you invest in a beautiful, complete multi-shelf light cart or hang up an inexpensive four-foot fixture in an extra room, you will be amazed at the improvement in violet growth and bloom habits.

***Fluorescent light tubes*** - Back-up packages, or perhaps a case of fluorescent lights are very handy to have when tubes begin to fail. Wide spectrum lamps have a natural color similar to sunlight and an excellent spectrum of light for growing. Cool white lamps are also excellent for growing, perhaps a little less flattering to certain colors of violet blossoms, but less expensive than the first.

***Timer*** - Violets tend to do best when the length of the light-day is somewhat consistent. Very few people are so regimented that they are able to turn lights on and off at the same time every day. A twenty-four hour timer makes this an easy task. Inexpensive ones can be purchased in most hardware departments. Spending money for a slightly more durable timer is a good investment.

### **Tools for the growing room**

***Turkey baster*** - The rubber bulb and long snout make this a great tool for watering under violet leaves while giving excellent control of the water flow. This tool is also helpful in removing excess water from trays or saucers after watering is done.

***Wicking or Capillary Matting Equipment*** - A constant water method, either wicking or capillary matting, makes a large collection of violets more manageable. The constant water also guarantees that newly forming flower buds won't dry up, resulting in more prolific blooming. This equipment might include sturdy trays, wire mesh or plastic grating to cover the trays, individual plant reservoirs, acrylic yarn, or other wicking materials. Those who prefer to use capillary matting will need layers of vattex or other manufactured plush material to line trays.

***Soil Scoop*** - This simple gadget is like a wide funnel that allows the meticulous grower to add soil to the top of a pot without getting dirt on the violet's leaves. Whether purchased, devised out of rolled up paper, or made from a recycled plastic bottle, it is very helpful.

***Fan*** - If mildew or fungus growth is a concern, fans (kept running throughout the night) can be a great help. Ceiling fans, rotating fans, or even mini fans will keep air moving and reduce pockets of extremely humid air that promote the growth of fungal disease. It also makes your growing area a more pleasant place in which to work.



**Labels, Marking Pens, and a Pencil** - Plastic labels, either homemade from cut-up opaque containers, or purchased will help keep plants properly labeled. Permanent ink marking pens are best for writing on these labels since they are water resistant. So simple, but so handy in the plant room, a pencil can be used to prod out suckers, to adjust plants in pots, or to write notes about favorite plants.

**Calendar** - A good wall calendar with plenty of space for writing notes is of great help in your growing area. You can keep track of violet shows, exhibits, and sales, as well as club or council meetings and the annual AVSA convention. Notes can be kept about the application of pesticides and fungicides, as well as disbudding schedules for upcoming shows in which you plan to participate.

**Knife** - A simple folding knife is very helpful for scraping necks before repotting and a separating mature plants that have divided. It even comes in handy when opening boxes of recently received mail-order violets!

**Measuring Spoons** - A simple set of measuring spoons reserved just for the plant room is a good idea. Whether you use them for fertilizer or pesticides, you don't want to use them the next time for food.

**Garbage Can** - The larger your violet collection, the more essential a garbage can is to catch discarded leaves, dead flowers, and old potting mix. A covered container is best so that any pests or fungus problems don't multiply in the plant room.

**Mask and Gloves** - Protective equipment is very important if you are going to control pests or disease with chemicals. Safety masks come in many forms, including full and partial face respirators and gas masks to protect breathing and eyes. While much of the equipment is designed for greenhouse use, economical versions are available for home growers. Paper face masks to filter dust particles are extremely helpful if you mix your own potting mix.

Since many insecticides are absorbed easily through the skin, gloves are strongly recommended for all levels of growers. Latex gloves are easily available from many sources and have the advantage of being disposable and inexpensive.

**File box or Computer Files** - The larger your collection, the more you will want to keep records. Just a list of the varieties will help you avoid duplication. More experienced growers like to keep file or computer notes of the hybridizer's name, the registration number and description, and how the plant performs, as well as noting when leaves were put down, and when hybrid crosses were made, etc.

**Humidity and Temperature Gauge** - The best way to keep temperatures and humidity within the proper ranges is to

know exactly what the current status is. Especially helpful are thermometers that record both the high and low of the day. Knowing these variations can help head off the conditions that encourage fungal disease.

**Dehumidifier or Humidifier** - If humidity levels go higher than about 60% on a regular basis, the onset of fungal disease is much more likely. Dehumidifiers can help to correct the problem fairly quickly.

If humidity levels are below 40% in the growing area, blossoms may dry up before they ought. Open trays of water are the least expensive solution, but if that is not sufficient, a humidifier may be a good idea. Be sure to clean regularly to prevent bacterial growth.

**Leaf Support Rings** - African violet leaves sometimes tend to sag around the sides of the pot. This is often not attractive, and it can result in leaves being injured by pot edges. Growers also find that horizontal leaves make better use of the light. To solve that problem, leaf support rings were invented. Most of these have rubber bands attached to pegs on the ring which will hug the pot snugly when they are moved up from below.

## Growing Room Supplies

**Potting mix** - Eventually all violets need to be repotted or leaves need to be put down to start new plants. A back-up bag of high quality violet potting mix is essential. Many growers find that buying a violet club mix or mixing their own is best. A basic recipe is: one part Canadian sphagnum peat moss, one part vermiculite, and one part perlite. If your collection is large, a garbage can is a great place to mix and store the potting mix.

**Pots** - It is wise to keep a stash of clean pots ready for transplanting suckers removed from mature plants, as well as for plantlets that have been divided from leaf clumps. Good pots should be squatly, in several sizes from 2-inch for starter plants up to 6-inch (or larger) diameter pots if you grow for show. They should have rolled edges if possible so that leaves aren't damaged from contact.

**Plastic bags or Large Clear Containers** - When violets need intensive care after repotting or when leaves are rooting, they seem to do best in high humidity. This is easily achieved with either bags or clear containers that can be tightly closed. It is helpful to have a variety of diameters for different sized plants. Don't forget to save containers from fast food for an economical solution.

## Chemicals

**Fertilizer** - African violets need regular feeding to produce large clusters of flowers. There are many adequate fertilizers available, although certain products are better for certain regions. Local violet clubs are often an excellent place to ask what works best in that area.

**Pesticides** - A basic pesticide that contains a pyrethrin is good to have on hand when fungus gnats or aphids make an appearance. Other common African violet pests need other specific products to control, and it is best to be sure the particular bug is present before purchasing or using a pesticide.

**Fungicides** - Many growers keep Physan 20 on hand to control algae growth in water reservoirs and to clean tools. Similarly, aerosol Lysol disinfectant is helpful in battling light cases of powdery mildew and for cleaning the plant shelves. Other fungicides target specific types of fungus and should be purchased only if there is a definite need.

Clorox bleach is a fine disinfectant to use for cleaning previously used pots, water reservoirs, and repotting tools. It is an often recommended product for control of bacteria in the growing area and worth keeping on hand.

### **Books and Resources**

#### *African Violet Magazine*

No serious grower would consider giving up their magazine. It continues to be the best source of current tips to handle prevailing pests and diseases, as well as the best source to find many of the items on a grower's wish list. One way to keep the magazine coming forever is to get a Life Membership in AVSA. The cost may seem high at first, but you are going to be growing violets for a long time!

#### *AVSA Handbook for African Violet Growers.*

#### *Exhibitors, and Judges*

This book, available only from the AVSA office, is essential for growers who wish to enter plants in competition. It also contains many basic suggestions regarding growing techniques and handling pests and disease, as well as the history and anatomy of violets.

#### *Insect and Mite Pests of African Violets* by Charles L. Cole

Published by AVSA, and available from the office, this text details which pests are commonly found in violet collections, how to recognize them, and how to treat for them.

#### *First Class or Master Variety List*

*First Class* is an excellent computer program listing violets both by name and by hybridizer which allows the user to search files with key words or to make labels. The newest version includes photos of many hybrids. It is published by AVSA.

The *AVSA Master Variety List* (MVL) is the textbook form which lists most known violets in alphabetical order, complete with descriptions and origination of the plant.

#### *Growing to Show* by Pauline Bartholomew

This book was published a number of years ago, but continues to be an excellent guide for growers who wish to enter plants in shows. It details every step in the process of growing a violet into a blue ribbon winner.

### **Where to Shop**

Many of the items listed can be found at local discount, hardware, or garden stores. Some highly specialized items may be ordered from the AVSA office or vendors who advertise in the *African Violet Magazine* and online at the [www.avsa.org](http://www.avsa.org) website.

Many growers have gadgets they couldn't grow without, that they would undoubtedly add to this long list. But no violet room could exist without violets! With over nine thousand AVSA registered varieties, many more that are named, and new ones every year, we will never run out of plants we want to add to our collections. Growing them well with the right equipment helps us enjoy them all the more. Happy growing!



# **A Very Successful AVSA Auction**

by Edna Rourke

99 Old Stratford Road • Shelton CT 06484 • 203-926-9716 • [Apapillon@aol.com](mailto:Apapillon@aol.com)

A very special thank you to the many generous donors and winning bidders who continually make the Saturday Luncheon Auction a great success.

Special thanks also goes out to our auctioneer, AVSA President Jack Wilson who, again, made our auction as much fun as it was successful. To our auction staff - Charlene Boyce, Dale Martens, Barbara Pershing, Claude Morrisette, Alice Easter and Bev Promerberger, my gratitude for your help and support. To Ruth Rumsey, our AVSA Editor, Jenny Daugereau, Administrative Coordinator, and Amy Sanders, AVSA Office Secretary, who not only recorded, collected and kept track of the auction sales, but all year have assisted in making this auction a success, thanks. And, to two very special "camp followers" - Pat Wilson and my husband, Al, my thanks for their help and behind-the-scene's support.

To our many generous donors: Marjorie Bullard, Alice Easter, Nancy Gilson, Pat Hancock, Nancy Hayes, Mary Hill, Thomas Lindros, Sandra Lister of the Garden Angel, Dale Martens, Bill and Katherine Paauwe, Barbara Pershing, Elinor Skelton, Anne Tinari, the late Frank Tinari of Tinari Greenhouses, and Pat Wilson, a huge thank you for your generous donations. We couldn't have done it without you.

Last, but certainly not least, to all of our successful winning bidders, thank you for your support.

Without your enthusiasm and generosity, this auction wouldn't have been possible.

Information about next year's auction will appear in upcoming issues of the *African Violet Magazine*. I'm looking forward to seeing you in Baton Rouge.

# AVSA Scholarship Recipient Essays

**Eric Hsu**

**Senior General Plant Science Major  
Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.**

My ideal career is defined by several components. I firmly believe that an ideal job in plant science or horticulture should embrace the garden and natural areas as an outdoor classroom, in addition to the customary laboratory with elaborate apparatus. Liberty Hyde Bailey, the patriarch of American horticulture, strongly advocated this belief, as he had to convince botanists that research could be conducted in gardens and natural areas, rather than the herbarium. In addition, creativity should be a significant component of the job.

I intend to participate in a one year internship before pursuing a master's degree in public garden administration, then a PhD in horticultural taxonomy. This internship would perhaps be a year-long training practicum at the Royal Horticultural Society's Wisley garden in Great Britain or an equally famous garden in the United States. Such experience would help me gain an insight into different aspects of gardening, whether it is new plant hybrids, methods of pruning, or innovative garden designs.

It is my fervent hope to continue my writing and artistic endeavors related to horticulture and natural history throughout my career. I am currently striving to gain a foothold in the publishing field with articles. At some point in my career, I wish to devote some time to writing full-length manuscripts for books. A position as a director of a public garden or a professor of horticulture would allow me to reconcile these interests. These two careers require the ability to write well if I, while being an open-minded thinker, am to educate people about new ideas. There are a number of distinguished people in the horticultural field who have been able to achieve noteworthy efforts in these aspects; their careers are worth emulating.

A potential third career pathway that is worth exploring is serving as an editor for a mainstream horticultural publication, such as Horticulture Magazine or Fine Gardening Magazine. This career interests me because it would refine and sharpen my writing skills while allowing me to interact with a network of horticulturalists across the country. I suspect that the number of gardening publications will increase when gardening becomes a dominant pastime among Americans.

**Michael W. Schoen**

**Senior Horticulture Major  
University of Wisconsin-Madison**

This coming year I will be a senior at the University of Wisconsin-Madison where I am majoring in horticulture. I have been intrigued by and in love with plants since I was about ten years old. I am proud to be a horticulture major and excited to be in the program.

This university has opened my eyes to experiences and opportunities that I could have never imagined. Through these experiences I have started to discover my niche in life and horticulture. One of the most important experiences happened last year. I participated in a program focusing on sustainable development in Costa Rica. By spending time in the country, I was able to live and feel what I had learned like never before. It was an awesome experience; however, it has made me question many of our current horticultural and business methods and policies.

I've been an active member of the Horticulture Club since my freshman year. This coming year, I will have the pleasure of serving as president. With the grace of our department, we have put together a course in tropical horticulture, complete with a two-week field trip to Costa Rica. I'm grateful to be able to return there and to be able to focus exclusively on horticulture this time.

I have gained an interest in the world economy, international business, and horticulture's role in them. One day I would like to work with international trade of floriculture crops. New technologies and processes are allowing us to ship perishable crops further distances. Cut flowers from Central America arrive in local flower shops in less than a day. One day I hope to use my horticultural knowledge to open new markets and hopefully stress the implementation of more sustainable policies!

I owe a great deal to the AVSA and the Sundowners African Violet club here in Madison. They have been kind enough to allow me to be a student member, and they have also donated violets to the University of Wisconsin-Madison's instructional greenhouse where I work. If it weren't for your scholarship, I and many others would not be able to have these awesome experiences and feed our interests. You are truly helping me build the foundation of my future, and I thank you!

# Thinking Small



**Pat Richards**

15105 S. Seminole Drive  
Olathe, KS 66062-3004  
email: [Patter257@aol.com](mailto:Patter257@aol.com)

Last issue we discussed the convention standouts on the amateur side; today, we move to the commercial side.

## TOP WINNERS

Winning Third Best New Introduction was Lyndon Lyon's Greenhouses 'Plumberry Glow', a semiminature cultivar which caught my eye in the sales room long before the judging results were announced. This plant is simply gorgeous, with a very attractive thumbprint flower in a delicious shade of reddish plum-purple framed by a variable white edge. It is packaged in a nice fluted star shape accented with bright yellow stamen. These plants showed more plum than pictured in the catalog, but it is a welcome difference! The distinctive blooms are placed on nice, symmetrical growing, dark green with white variegated foliage. Lyon's had two plants entered in the show and both were exceptional; the specimen in my own collection is growing very well and is also exhibiting the easy symmetry and smooth foliage texture.

The Best Commercial Display Table was exhibited by Rob's Violets, with forty-five minis and semis evincing pure perfection! Standouts on the table included well-known 'Rob's Fuddy Duddy', which was awarded Best Plant in Commercial Displays. This is a small growing semi with black-green foliage topped by single mauve-purple stars accented by yellow stamen. While not a breathtaking beauty, it is one of the best, most reliable semis you can grow. Another beauty was 'Rob's Bunny Hop', an absolute sweetheart of a mini! Its semidouble pink blooms provide stunning contrast to the truly small growing, pointed Tommie-Lou variegated (TLV) foliage. This is a very tidy cultivar. 'Rob's Boogie Woogie', a relatively recent introduction which has already become a classic, showed well with its Champion variegation of tan, pink, and green topped by large, lovely

candy pink single blooms. 'Rob's Kid Wheezy' was enticing with its blooms of white with variable purple edging and accents on medium green foliage. This semi is one to try for those who love variability in flowers. 'Rob's Fuzzy Navel' was another cultivar of merit. It puts up such a quantity of light pink blooms it nearly hides the dark foliage. It's a simple combination, but excellent for show. A final cultivar of note is the delightful semimini chimera, 'Rob's Hand Puppet', with its pastel blooms of lavender and light pink. It blooms heavily and often, and grows easily.

Olive Ma Robinson won Best Commercial Holtkamp Collection with 'Optimara Little Crystal', 'Optimara Rose Quartz' and 'Optimara Little Moonstone'. These are all proven show winners and among the best in the Optimara Little Jewel series. She also had the Best AVSA Small Collection with 'Optimara Little Crow', 'Optimara Little Aztec' and 'Optimara Little Cherokee'. The former is a beautiful white with purple-blue bloom, the latter is a beautiful true pink with darker eye, and 'Optimara Little Aztec' is a gorgeous purple red semidouble on dark foliage. I believe it's difficult to grow the Optimara semiminatures to perfection, and these were about as good as I've seen.

In the specimen classes, Lyon's 'Stormy Rage' looked exceptional with its very dark green variegated foliage tinted with pink. It was topped by double dark blue blooms creating quite a striking display! A plant of 'Rob's Jitterbug' had foliage almost hidden by a ton of light blue blooms with fine white edge. Again, it doesn't hold variegation well, but when so well hidden by the blooms, judges don't notice! 'Sky Bell' was delightful with a light lavender bell bloom on oval variegated foliage. This is an older cultivar, but proved it is still very desirable, particularly for those who want something different.

## COMMERCIAL SALES

AVSA had several commercials in the sales room which specialize in carrying a multitude of older minis and semis. The first was the Violet Venture operated by Fay Wagman of Pittsford, New York. Needless to say, Fay's list is extensive, and offers something quite different from most other commercials: it lists the cultivars by hybridizer, not by name. This is very helpful, and also serves to draw you through her list. Several demonstration plants Fay had on hand are worthy of mention. 'Maas' Angelina' is an older cultivar with double purple blooms, but what is most noteworthy about this plant is it has clackamus foliage! Foliage such as this is usually elongated. What makes this plant distinctive is the veining is prominent and, because of the elongation, appears to run length of the foliage. I fear it will grow oversize, but every once in a while it's nice to grow something distinctively different, like this one. Others Fay grew to perfection were 'Ness' Viking Angel', which held a multitude of double fuchsia-red blooms above tiny, dark green foliage. It's quite reminiscent of 'Rob's Fiddle Faddle', only with more rounded, slightly darker foliage. Another was Pittman's 'Angel Halo', with a multitude of semidouble mauve-rose blooms with darker eyes on well-behaved dark green semi foliage. Another eye-catcher was Hart's 'Little Bill' showing an abundance of white with fuchsia-red edge blooms on light green foliage.

Lisa DiMambro drove from New Hampshire to attend convention. Lisa also grows quite an extensive collection of hard-to-find older cultivars, and I was happy to re-stock my collection with quite a few of them: 'Bogeyman' (Scott), 'Rob's Hot Chocolate', 'Christening Gown' (Lyon's), 'Boo Man' (Lyon's), and 'Cool Blue' (Pittman) to name a few. She also carries a lot of the MacDonald cultivars. Her list is quite extensive and mini lovers should delight in reading through it.

## NEW ACQUISITIONS

In addition to 'Plumberry Glow', two other new Lyon hybrids were added to my collection. These are 'Festive Confetti', a semi with light pink blooms lightly patterned with fine blue fantasy specks on dark, pointed foliage. It does drop the blooms, but only after putting up a large head of bloom and holding them for quite a while. If you like pastel and contrast, you'll enjoy this cultivar. Another acquisition is 'Kid Stuff' which has fluffy, semidouble white blooms with a striking dark blue eye. This is on top of light to emerald green flat growing, pointed foliage. Both of these cultivars appear to be VERY heavy blooming plants, putting up lots of buds per stem and lots of stems per plant. 'Kid Stuff' appears to be one which will stay in constant bloom if you let it.

## UPDATE . . . AGAIN

As a pre-eminent hybridizer of small ones, Dr. Ralph Robinson was asked why so few new introductions had been made over recent years. His response was a simple and familiar one: no time. With a full-time business and adding on to the "violet barn", he simply cannot focus on hybridizing as he once did. He did discuss several new hybrids in the works though, primarily working with Champion variegation such as that of 'Rob's Boogie Woogie' and continuing to work on hybrids in the peach/coral ranges. And now, an update to 'Rob's Bed Bug' which bloomed for me over the summer: its blooms are in the deep velvety fuchsia-red category, producing semidouble stars in great abundance over well-behaved, small growing, semiminature Champion variegated foliage. It is reminiscent of 'Rob's Cherry Soda' and should make a very nice show plant.

Next time we'll make a return to cultural aspects of minis and semis, as well as discuss some new introductions for 2003. Have a very festive holiday season, and as always, good growing!

## AVSA Building Maintenance Fund

Mary Walbrick • 5235 Kingston Drive • Wichita Falls, Texas 76310-3029  
E-mail: MWalbrick@aol.com • Fax: 775-243-0836

### Donations received June 4 - July 1, 2002 - Report 6

Crosstown AV Club, Madison, WI	\$15.00
Danville AVS, Danville, VA	5.00
Delta Gesneriad & AVS, Sacramento, CA	15.00
North Star AV Council, Coon Rapids, MN	15.00
Patricia Apgar, Newton, NJ	5.00
Armand Arata, Leonia, NJ	10.00
<i>In memory of Gregory Tatarian</i>	
Jon Eller, Pittsfield, IL	5.00
Linda Garramone, Bay Shore, NY	10.00
Brandy Lis, Schaumburg, IL	20.00
Joshua McKinney, Goshen, KY	3.00
Elizabeth Mathes, Vestavia Hills, AL	5.00
Wade A. Nolan, Jacksonville, FL	5.00
Jeanne Senay, Des Peres, MO	5.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$118.00</b>

### Donations received July 1 - July 31, 2002 - Report 7

Midland Violets (Don & Jean Ness), White Bear Lake, MN	\$25.00
<i>In honor of Betty Nipp</i>	
Emogene Bennett, Charlotte, NC	5.00
Gloria Clyne, Syracuse, NY	5.00
Millie Dellarco, Leesburg, FL	1.00
Camilla Ingle, Simpsonville, SC	5.00
Hilda Johnson, Cambridge, MA	10.00
Tatiana N. Kalgin, Moscow, Russia	20.00
Marvin K. Nester, Lakeland, FL	5.00
Joy B. Phillips, Morristown, NJ	5.00
C. P. Povey, Stillwater, MN	20.00
David B. Tooker, Red Bank, NJ	10.00
Shelly Valladao, Folsom, CA	10.50
Margaret Weaver, Valencia, CA	10.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$131.50</b>

In the previous report, several donations were in error. My apologies to those who support the Building Maintenance Fund.

**The donations should have read:** Smith's Country Cottage (G. T. Smith) - \$25.00, Renee Victor - \$15.00, Frank Barthel - \$5.00, Sherrill DuBois - \$2.00, Ralph O. Quaintance - \$10.00, Geneva Staggs - \$6.00, and Jean M. Rogers - \$3.00.

# In Search of New Violets



**Dr. Jeff Smith**  
The Indiana Academy  
Ball State University  
Muncie, IN 47306  
[JSmith4@bsu.edu](mailto:JSmith4@bsu.edu)

If you have grown plants from seed, one of the hardest things to do is to decide which babies to keep and which to let go. After all, all African violet seedlings are something new. The question is, are they "special" enough to keep. Here are a few tips that might help you decide which plants are truly worthy of further investment of time and resources:

1. If you are looking for good show plants, keep the seedlings that have good symmetry and have leaves that overlap easily without gaps. Seedlings with poor symmetry will likely continue this problem unless the original problem was caused by a culture break such as waiting too long to transplant.
2. Watch for seedlings that have strong flower stalks and hold their blooms above the leaves. Avoid plants that tend to lay the blooms on top of the foliage.
3. Bud count is an inheritable trait. Seedlings that have five or more flowers on their first bloom stalks will likely produce more flowers as a mature plant than those with only 2-3 buds.
4. Discard any plants with flowers that are single droppers.
5. If you are selecting for miniatures, discard plants that quickly grow too large to remain in this size category. They will be difficult to keep small enough for show.
6. Look for plants that have unique characteristics or combinations of traits. Try not to keep exact duplicates of existing plants.
7. Unless you are breeding for trailers, avoid seedlings that seem to sucker frequently. It is unlikely that they will outgrow this condition.
8. Although your babies will be special to you, will they be

special to anyone else? Be prepared to give away or compost 95-99% of the seedlings. Extra seedlings will be very welcomed by others.

9. Be sure to keep good records for any seedlings that are kept, indicating their parentage and other useful horticultural notes.
10. Grow the seedling for three generations to check for stability. The original seedling is generation one. A leaf from this plant produces generation two. A leaf from this plant produces generation three. When all three plants are compared, they should be nearly identical.
11. Register the plants with the AVSA.

**Q:** *I enjoyed the article on wasp flowers and bustled foliage that appeared in the recent African Violet Magazine. Can you tell me how these traits are inherited?*

**A:** Both wasp shaped flowers and bustled foliage are dominant genetic traits. If a wasp/bustled foliage plant is crossed with a normal flower/foliage plant, about 50% of the offspring will be wasp/bustled. If the plant is homozygous dominant or carries two dominant factors, then 100% of the offspring will be wasp/bustled. However, the homozygous dominant plants are rare.

Wasp flowers and bustled foliage are normally linked together and are inherited as a package deal. However, in about 3-4% of the offspring, the two traits may separate, allowing you to have an offspring that has wasp flowers on normal foliage. While the reverse combination of traits is also possible (normal flowers on bustled foliage), the amount of

"bustle" on these seedlings is minimal and the seedling is often discarded before the bustle trait manifests.

**Q:** *Do African violets show any sex-linked traits? Is this what is meant by "boy" and "girl" foliage?*

**A:** African violets are bisexual (have both sexes on one individual) and cannot show sex-linkage as occurs in humans. The use of the terms "boy" and "girl" have nothing to do with the plants' "sex", but rather the type of leaf the plant shows. One of the original African violet cultivars was 'Blue Boy' which has plain leaves. An early mutation of 'Blue Boy' had leaves with a white leaf base and highly ruffled margins. The mutant plant was called 'Blue Girl'. Since that time, the term "girl foliage" refers to plants with similar leaves to the mutant 'Blue Girl' and the term "boy" refers to plants with leaves similar to 'Blue Boy'.

**Q:** *Wild African violets have either blue flowers or purple flowers. Since purple is a mixture of blue and red, why was one of the first color mutations for pink flowers instead of red flowers? After all, wouldn't it be easier to make a red flower since the red pigment was already present in the purple flowers?*

**A:** The genetic models that govern the inheritance of flower colors in African violets suggest that the pigment synthesis pathway in flowers is: white (no pigment) to pink to red to blue. A blue or purple African violet will have the pigments go through all of these steps before the final color is made. In most cases, the conversion is so rapid we don't "see" the pink or red steps, only the final blue product. So even in the case of purple flowers, all of the earlier colors in the manufacturing process were present at one time or another.

The difference in pink/red/blue is how many side groups are attached to the pigment molecule. The pink pigment has no

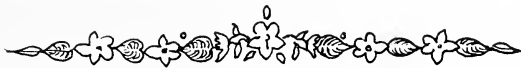
side groups, red pigment has one side group, and blue pigment has two side groups. A separate gene controls the addition of each side group. Therefore, two genes are needed to convert the pigment from pink to red to blue. A second consideration is that the 1st gene must work before the 2nd gene can function. Any plant with a mutation in the 1st gene will default to pink, regardless of the functional status of the 2nd gene.

For whatever reason, the mutation that caused the 1st gene to stop working (giving pink) happened before the mutation in the 2nd gene. A mutation in the second gene was discovered at a later date, or we wouldn't have red flowers today. I don't know if there was any particular reason for the mutations to occur in this order, but that's the way they were recorded in African violet history.

**Q:** *How is the trailing habit inherited in African violets?*

**A:** Trailing habit appears to be a polygene trait, meaning there are multiple factors that add together to make a trailing habit. There isn't a straightforward dominant or recessive but an addition of several genetic factors to produce the trait. For example, when a trailer is crossed with a rosette style plant, the offspring are often non-trailers with some tendency to freely sucker. The later habit may produce a multiple crown plant or what some call a "bush" style trailer. This plant will need to be crossed with another trailer in order to get longer stems and a more free trailing habit.

The type of trailer used in the original cross also seems to make a difference. I've gotten good trailing habit in F1 offspring produced with the species plants *Saintpaulia magungensis* and the Mather No. 21 trailer (There were several nice plants of this species at the 2002 AVSA National show). Crosses out of *S. grotei* (the species used in producing many standard sized trailers) often produce F1 offspring with minimal trailing ability.



## A Special Request to our Members, Hybridizers and Affiliates It's Our 6th Annual Luncheon Auction

by Edna Rourke

99 Old Stratford Road • Shelton, CT 06484-6129 • Email Apapillon@aol.com

The Sixth Annual AVSA Luncheon Auction will take place on Saturday, April 27, 2003. With all that has been planned for this convention by the Baton Rouge, LA Convention Committee, this luncheon is sure to be a wonderful time for all. Our past luncheon auctions have always been so much fun, in addition to being a success. The reason for this is your generous donations. I hope you will be generous in your donations to this luncheon auction.

Our affiliates continue to have a great deal of talented craftsmen among their members; won't you consider donat-

ing a violet-related item or craft either as an individual member donation or as a club? Hybridizers, your donations of supplies or newly introduced plant material would be most appreciated. Donations of violet-related items of a rare, unique, or unusual nature would also be gratefully accepted.

If you plan to make a donation, need further information, or want to help in some way, please let me know at your earliest convenience. I'll look forward to hearing from you. Look for further information in upcoming issues of the AVM. Many thanks in advance for your continued help and support.

# Question Box



**Ralph Robinson**  
P.O. Box 9  
Naples, NY 14512  
email: [robsviolet@aol.com](mailto:robsviolet@aol.com)



**Dorothy Kosowsky**  
712 Cunningham Dr.  
Whittier, CA 90601  
email: [dot3joe@earthlink.net](mailto:dot3joe@earthlink.net)

At our latest judging school, the subject of an over-potted miniature came up. I realized the rules would not penalize this plant, but the overall appearance would preclude the possibility of more than a blue ribbon. Unfortunately, many new growers are unaware that helpful hints are just a few pages away in regard to pots, in a myriad of sizes in the back pages of the AVM among the various ads for pots.

While some people are great experimenters, others fear to try anything that sounds "different" or perhaps a bit more costly. Part of the problem may stem from the advice that a plant needs to be three times the size of the pot. You have been told from the beginning that the ratio of plant to pot would work out to one third of the plant on one side, one third across the pot, and one third on the other side. This leaves you with the problem of what size the pot should be at the time of potting. Starting with the poor miniature in a *Solo* cup that was only about two thirds the size of the pot at the time it was being shown, the soil was visible around the circle of leaves. It's obvious this plant would look much better in a smaller pot.

There are two inch pots, thumb pots, as well as 2 3/8" pots, and these pots are smaller in volume (space for the root system). These are very nice for smaller miniatures and for getting the plantlets up to full size, as even the tiniest mini will generally look quite well, even in a *Solo* cup, after it has reached it's optimum growth. Often, these small-growing miniatures can be encouraged to grow to a larger size if given extra time and potted on from small pots. Even for most of my semiminature plants, I prefer the 2 1/4" (rather than 2 1/2") pots which have less volume than a *Solo* cup, as a great many semiminatures don't grow to a

full eight inches. Many of the miniatures also go in 2 1/4" pots, but probably start off in 2" or 2 3/8" pots, with a fair number remaining in the small pots even for show. I go a step further and use very small, one inch sauce containers with drainage holes that use less mix. These are helpful when you are impatient and are trying to get a tiny variety started as soon as they have four or five leaves. I also use them for very small suckers when I don't want to have the plant distorted by the sucker's growth. Some semiminature and miniatures seem very prone to suckers. With a growing number of new varieties being added to my collection, I prefer to use suckers rather than putting down leaves. These plants, suckers, and plantlets, must be in an enclosed, clear container as there is little medium and they dry out very quickly.

A word about other sized plants: if you grow very big plants, put them in adequate size pots. A 24" plant in a four or five inch pot looks ridiculous, and it does not produce bloom over the whole area of the plant. If it is grown in a seven inch pot that provides a strong root system, the bloom will extend out over the majority of the plant. However, when you see a plant with lots of foliage and only a clump of bloom in the center, you can be sure it's in too small a pot. Plus, the plant is out of proportion with too much foliage for the amount of bloom. The whole idea is to try and gauge what size pot will provide a nice balance, adequate room for roots, and ensure the plant will be the correct ratio to the pot. If you want a 16" plant, you need a 5" pot. If you want a 24" plant, you must pot up to at least a 7" pot. The trick is moving the plant along so it is never in the sad situation where there is so much soil the plant



stays waterlogged and never grows. You need a good root system to support the plant. The rule of thumb is to move up only an inch at a time: Solo cup, 3" pot, 4" pot, 5" pot, and so on. If you are shooting for a large show plant, do not plan on creating one in less than two or more years - starting from a leaf. However, it does need to be brought along rather quickly, potting on as soon as your plant to pot ratio is 3 to 1.

**QUESTION:** *I was wondering if aluminum foil is harmful to African violets? It's time to replant my two African violets which were originally potted in ceramic pots, but now need more room. The design of holes looks great but wouldn't hold the soil. I would like to line them with aluminum foil before adding the plant and fresh soil, but I'm not sure if it would be toxic. The cost of new ceramic pots is not within my budget, and I would like to keep all three of us healthy.*

**ANSWER:** I've never read anything about the toxicity of aluminum on plants; however, aluminum oxide is a very hard substance and since it will be wet or damp a great deal of the time, the effect on the root system might be suspect. There is also the problem of where it creases there is a hard edge which might break, since it's so brittle, and cause leakage.

There are two ways to solve your problem and continue to grow in the ceramic containers. Since you would like to have the larger sized plants, I'd suggest you line the pots with a thick plastic, the weight of a drop cloth. If you do not have that available, two or three thickness of plastic should work; just be sure you have a drainage hole or holes that are adequate to prohibit soggy soil. The other suggestion is to trim back your plant to a size that would fit in the container as it was originally. You need to prune the roots and remove leaves to encourage a smaller type plant. The advantage is that you can continue to Bonsai the plant for as long as you keep growing in the ceramic pots. Then, of course, one day you might decide you could put the plants in plastic pots on a saucer. This isn't so expensive and you have the freedom to repot as often as necessary.

**QUESTION:** *I have been starting my new African violet leaves by using root hormone, watering them, then putting them in sealed plastic bags. So far I've been getting new leaves in about six weeks. My questions are, once they get their new leaves do you take them out of the plastic bags as soon as you see new starts? When your new plant is out of the plastic bag and starts growing, how soon do you clip the mother leaf off?*

**ANSWER:** Your results with starting leaves is excellent and I'm a great believer in, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." You are going to hear many suggestions as to how to put down your leaves and since you are having good luck, be happy with your nice little plantlets and ignore any advice. You can keep your leaves as they are until the time you separate the plantlets from the mother leaf, if there is no

problem in watering and general care. I cut the mother leaf about in half when I see the plantlets are about 1/2" tall. When they reach the top of the mother leaf, I break it off at pot level. The reason for clipping the leaf and later breaking it off is it shades the plantlets and also crowds the tender leaves that are looking for a bit of space.

**QUESTION:** *In your articles I notice you speak of the use of Superthrive with your fertilizer water. Why do you need to add this since it's an additional expense?*

**ANSWER:** When I started growing Begonias many years ago, a very good grower suggested I use Superthrive for transplanting to avoid the shock that often occurs. When I checked the label, it was also more than just a B1 product for transplant shock and seemed to give outstanding results. My great "Love" is the Rex Begonias, with their wonderful variety of colors and shapes. They are on the tender side, requiring special care, especially when being repotted. As time went by, I started showing Begonias and began using a drop of Superthrive in each gallon of fertilizer mix. When I repotted, I used 10 drops per gallon and on occasion, I also watered with the 10 drops per gallon as a tonic. I was quite successful at the Begonia shows, and I have not given up the practice of using Superthrive even though it was alleged that the only reason my Begonias were winning was because I gave them tender loving care, not the result of the use of Superthrive. That may be true, but I've since noticed that I end up with very shiny leaves on my African violets, and they also like the tonic feeding of 10 drops per gallon periodically.

I know a number of very good growers of African violets that also subscribe to the many uses of Superthrive. I always water my starter leaves with Superthrive, soak all leaves and plants, after a soap bath, that are new to the collection, and of course, use one drop per gallon in the fertilizer mix. You can buy plain B1 if you feel it will save you money, to use as a transplant shock reducer, but I haven't found it as satisfactory.

**QUESTION:** *What causes stem rot on my African violets? The stem close to the stalk turns brown and mushy. It starts with the ends of the leaf turning black.*

**ANSWER:** Please don't take offense at my answer, but almost every column addresses this problem and for some reason the description of a condition that is only slightly different from your situation doesn't translate to the bane of African violet growing "Too Much Water". Start with drainage, do you have perlite in the bottom of your pot? Or do you have a soil that has been amended with perlite to lighten the mix? Do your plants sit in water? Do you allow your plants to dry between waterings, not bone dry, but the top soil is dry to the touch? Do you wait until the plants have wilted and then give them gobs of water? If you wick water, is the soil very heavy so the plant has roots which

have turned black? Do you have a look at the root system of your plants from time to time to be sure the root system is white and growing vigorously? Pick out which of the suggestions is nearest to your growing conditions, then take all the necessary steps to correct it immediately. Heavy soil, inadequate drainage, and hit and miss watering are sure death for African violets. If you saw African violets

growing in the wild or any tropical plant for that matter, you would be amazed at the make up of the "soil" or how shallow the crevices are in which they grow. Just leaves and other plant debris make up the medium in which exotics generally grow. If you keep this in mind when selecting a soil mix, it will greatly improve your chances of success.



## pH PROBLEMS

If only my plants could talk! How often have you heard or said that? Well, they can, but can you understand what they are saying? African violets like a pH of around 6.5. Essential nutrient elements in your soil are not readily available to your plants until the pH of your soil is in the range of 6.5 – 6.9. When your soil pH is outside the two numbers in either direction, the nutrients are "locked up." Phosphate is the most insoluble element violets need for strong roots, blooms, and sturdy plant growth. Yet if the pH is from 5-6 or over 7.5, the violet will starve even though there is a good supply of phosphate present. This condition is called "phosphate lock-up".

To correct phosphate lock-up, you must first determine the soil pH. If the soil is too acid (5-6), then to make the phosphate available to the plant you would soak the soil in a lime water solution (one tablespoon dolomite lime to one gallon warm water and use that for several waterings.) Peat moss tends to be on the acid side. Dolomite lime is added to the mix to bring the pH into line. Commercial violet potting soil will often say, "pH adjusted" which means they have used lime to adjust the pH to 6.5. If your soil is too alkaline (above 7 on the pH scale), then soak the soil with a solution of vinegar water (two tablespoons to one-gallon warm water) several times in place of your regular watering. Another way is to sprinkle finely ground sulphur on the soil (one teaspoon to a 4" pot) and water with warm water. Do this several times in place of your regular watering. If dolomite lime is unavailable and your soil

is too acid (below 6.4 on the pH scale), you may use a solution of one-half teaspoon of Epsom salts and one-half teaspoon of whiting to a gallon of warm water for the correction.

Water also has a pH. Measure the pH of your water before adding fertilizer. Pool test kits are good for this. If your water is too alkaline, add a little household vinegar and test again. Test your soil and water and listen to your plants.

Watch the center growth, size, and color of your leaves. A fairly reliable sign that your plants are suffering with "phosphate lock-up" is a yellow edging around the sides of your leaves. Another fairly reliable sign that the soil is too acid is "tight centers". If the new leaves are very turgid or rigid and tightly curled, the soil is too acid. If your soil is too alkaline, your center growth will include pale or bleached leaves, leaves with brown edges, and retarded or slow plant growth. Too much light may also cause some of these symptoms, or you may have damaged the plant with a pesticide, or you could have mites. Rule out light and a pH problem before you start spraying for mites. A pH problem will look just like mite damage but is easier to correct. As your soil gets old and breaks down, the peat will become more acid. That is the main reason for repotting every six months.

Look and listen to your violets. They can talk. Can you understand?

From the Victoria AVS Newsletter, Victoria, TX

NOVEMBER • DECEMBER 2002

# POTTING MIX

## WHY WE USE WHAT WE USE

The most popular recipe for potting mix for African violets is a 1-1-1 mixture of sphagnum peat moss, vermiculite, and perlite. The mixture is light, holds water, and depending on the quantity of each in relation to the other, can either hold a lot of water or a little bit of water.

**Sphagnum peat moss** is found in swamps and bogs and the foundation plants of this died centuries ago. The pressure of its weight and heat of the decomposing plants have caused it to compress and transform (much as coal is formed) into layers of peat that can be fifty feet deep. Peat bogs are found in parts of Europe, Canada, Ireland, and the United States. German and Dutch peat was often considered a much better grade, but is usually not available in the United States. In Ireland and Holland, many peat bogs are still harvested for fuel.

A lightning strike can cause a peat bog to catch fire and it can burn for years, producing thick smoke. In the United States, another form of peat is found in formations known as lignite and is burned for fuel in power plants.

Peat moss, used in our potting soil, is the top-most layer of decomposed plant life and is harvested, dried, and milled for use in potting soils. Canadian and U.S. peat vary greatly in their acidity and should be checked before use. Peat moss is a sterile product, and history shows American Indians and medics, as late as the Civil War, used the long strand variety for wound dressing.

When water and nutrients are added, it becomes an ideal potting soil base. However, peat moss is dried to almost 0% moisture content before it is ground and is difficult to moisten. Before mixing with your other ingredients, it is recommended that you moisten it with boiling hot water. After it cools, knead it with your hands like making bread. Most commercial brands now available are slightly moist and not as difficult to use.

**Perlite** is a lightweight, porous, gritty white pebbly material manufactured from crushed lava rock expanded to many times its original size through intense heat.

**Vermiculite** is a sterile, lightweight, brownish, soft-textured, pebbly material. It is manufactured from crushed mica ore, expanded to many times its original size through intense heat. Vermiculite improves soil aeration while retaining moisture.

**Horticultural charcoal** is an organic material used in soil mixes for drainage and to keep the soil and water fresh. The charcoal acts as a filter to remove chemicals that might be toxic to the plants. A layer of charcoal at the bottom of a pot with no drainage hole will allow a place for the water to drain and remain fresh until needed by the roots.

**Dolomite lime** is composed of magnesium carbonate and calcium carbonate. It is an acid neutralizer. Added to a peat base potting soil, it will bring the pH to neutral or alkaline depending on how much is added. A soil that is too acid or too alkaline will "lock-up" nutrients and starve a plant even though the nutrients are present.

Dolomite limestone was formed by animals and plants deposited by seawater. Its magnesium is an essential element in

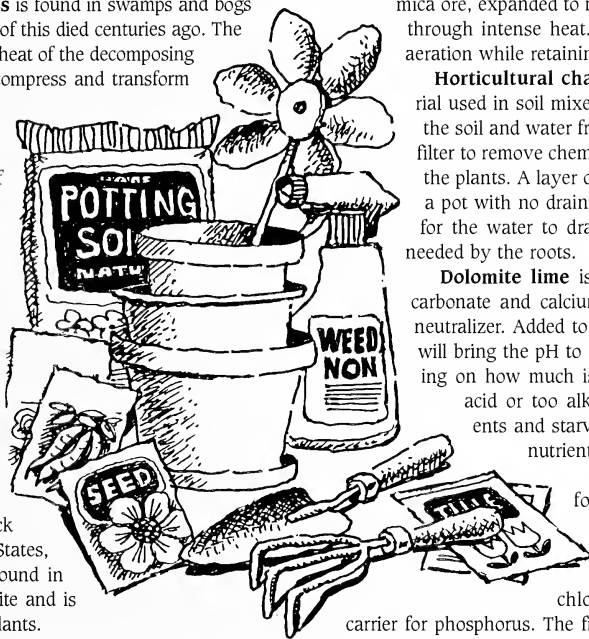
chlorophyll and acts as a

carrier for phosphorus. The first signs of a deficiency is yellowing of the leaves.

### Seed Meals

Cottonseed meal is the most popular of the seed meals. It is an organic source of nitrogen but will burn the roots if used too heavily.

Other additives are bone meal, blood meal, fish meal, kelp meal, alfalfa meal, and the list goes on and on. Regardless of whether you buy a ready mix African violet soil or make your own, check your pH before you use it, and never change all your plants to a new potting mix until it has proven itself on a few plants. Better safe than sorry.



# Selective Breeding

by Dr. Steven J. Schiff • Manalapan, N.J.

Most readers of *African Violet Magazine* are aware that the vast majority of the varieties of African violets we know and love are hybrids. A *hybrid* is the offspring of a cross between two species or varieties. There are approximately 20 known species of African violets (such as *Saintpaulia ionantha* and *S. grotel*), and these have been crossed, or *hybridized*, with each other (and then their descendants further crossed and back-crossed) thousands of times over the years to produce the enormous variety of hybrids we enjoy today.

Different species and varieties are not crossed at random. Rather, hybridizers employ a technique known as *selective breeding* to enhance the various characteristics of the plants they wish to develop. Selective breeding involves crossing individual plants which display the desired traits to a greater degree than others, and then selecting the offspring resulting from that cross which further display the desired traits. These selected offspring are then crossed with each other, or back to their parents, to continually enhance these traits.

What traits are we talking about? Selective breeding can modify any genetically-determined trait of a plant, such as the size, shape, and color of flowers and leaves, how long the flowers last, how many flowers are produced on a given stem, growth habits of the plant, and so on. Even such characteristics as fertilizer requirements and resistance to disease are subject to modification by selective breeding.

Selective breeding is an artificial form of the process of *natural selection* which drives the evolution of life on Earth. Just as environmental conditions apply selection pressure to the various characteristics of an organism in the wild, selective breeding applies such pressure to specifically chosen characteristics of a domesticated organism. Because such artificial selection is performed with a predetermined goal in mind, this pressure can be intense, and selective breeding can produce results quite rapidly, at rates much higher than natural selection can produce change in the wild.

Humans have been performing selective breeding for thousands of years on all sorts of domesticated organisms, from cattle to corn, from grass to guppies. The hybridizer chooses a goal or desired characteristic (for example, higher milk production in cattle, or yellow flowers in African violets) and selects individuals that have that characteristic to the highest degree possible. At the earliest stages of a breeding program, the animals or plants involved may show very little of the desired characteristic, but all it takes is a little time. The offspring of the first cross are evaluated for the characteristic, and those showing it best are selected for further breeding. They may be crossed with their siblings or back to their parents or merged with another line. If the breeder is skillful, each successive generation will show an increase in the

desired characteristic. Gradually, if the program is carried out through a sufficient number of generations, quite extensive and remarkable changes can be produced in all manner of living organisms, including, of course, African violets.

No discussion of selective breeding would be complete without mention of the science of genetics, although knowledge of the topic is not essential for successful development and improvement of strains of African violet plants. Selective breeding was practiced for thousands of years before scientists began to understand how genetic information is passed on from generation to generation – in other words, how offspring inherit traits from their parents. A nineteenth-century Austrian monk, Gregor Mendel, founded the science of genetics when he first began to work out the rules for such inheritance through his work on pea plants. Much of what he discovered is still used today in the hybridization of African violets and other organisms.

There are two aspects of selective breeding that are disturbing to some people. One of these is the notion that breeders are “playing God” with their plants or animals. In a way, this is true, as it is the breeder who directs the evolution of her varieties and chooses the characteristics to emphasize or eliminate. Some people are uncomfortable making value judgements concerning the characteristics of living things. However, under normal circumstances, the breeder is only taking advantage of opportunities presented to her by working with existing variations within the population of organisms she is breeding. No foreign genetic material or gene manipulation is used. (The use of such foreign or manipulated genetic material is called “genetic engineering”, and is quite different from selective breeding – but that’s a topic for another day.)

Another potentially disturbing aspect of selective breeding is the vast amount of waste that is necessarily involved. A single cross between two African violets can produce hundreds of seeds. Each seed is a hybrid unto itself and represents a genetically unique individual. There is no way, just by looking at the seeds, to determine what characteristics each will have – to do this, it is necessary to grow the seeds and evaluate the resulting plants. This in itself requires a huge amount of work and commitment of resources, and the results might easily be that only one or two, or even none, of the plants has a level of desirable characteristics that will be useful in further crosses. What, then, is to be done with the unwanted plants? Many breeders practice ruthless culling, discarding plants that don’t make the grade. It is this “waste” that many people find disturbing.

These people may find solace in the example given to us by nature. We have already mentioned that selective breeding is an artificial version of the natural selection process that

occurs in nature. When we look at the natural world, we find that nature is profligately wasteful when it comes to reproduction. Most organisms produce far more offspring than can ever survive. The vast majority of these offspring die before producing offspring of their own – they are eaten by predators, or starve, or fail to find an appropriate habitat, or succumb to any of the myriad forces with which nature

challenges its children. Those that survive and reproduce are victors in a deadly struggle for existence, and these constitute only a tiny minority of the competitors. The vast majority perish. This is the way of nature. Culling all but the best merely imitates the process of natural selection, which is how nature produces organisms so exquisitely adapted to their environment.



# SIX MONTHS TO SHOWTIME!

## *What should you be doing now?*

by Barbara Pershing

Show Plants - The show rules state that you must have been growing your show plants for three months before show.

### Criteria for Show Plants

The size of the plant IS NOT the most important consideration for a show plant.

Symmetry - Leaf Pattern accounts for 25 points in the AVSA Scale of Points used in merit judging. Symmetry is the shape of the plant. The leaves must form a rosette with the foliage evenly distributed over the entire plant. Gaps or spaces between the leaves or row of leaves, breaks in the symmetry of the leaf pattern, and uneven distribution of foliage can all cause deductions in points.

Some varieties do not have good symmetry and just won't cooperate. It is important to select varieties that show good symmetry as small plants, and the symmetry should be a prime consideration as the plant matures.

Poor culture early in the growing period of a plant can have a big effect on symmetry. A culture break caused by inconsistent growing conditions can cause poor symmetry. Allowing a plant to bloom heavily may cause a culture break and be difficult to bring back to good symmetry for a show. Disbudding from the time the plant is young will maintain a consistent growing pattern. You will want to allow at least one blossom stalk to mature and bloom, so you will be sure the size and type of blossom is consistent to the variety description in the Master Variety List (15 points).

A damaged leaf will not heal itself and should be removed. Given time, the space left by a removed leaf will fill in; a damaged leaf removed a few days before a show may leave a big hole in the leaf pattern.

A good root system is essential to good growth pattern of the plant. Consistent repotting of potential show plants is essential. Show plants should be repotted at least every three months prior to show and more often if growing rapidly. But,

DO NOT put in a larger pot within the three months prior to show. If potted up into a larger pot, the energy will first go into developing the root system until the roots fill the pot, instead of going to the foliage and blossoms.

Condition - Cultural perfection (25 points) applies to the cultural aspects and grooming of the plant at the time it is judged. Poor grooming consistently causes more point deductions than just about any other thing in judging, and it is the area that is most controlled by the exhibitor.

Quantity of Blossoms - (25 points) This depends on the size and maturity of the plant. Mature standard varieties should have from 20-25 open blossoms; small standard plants 8" to 10" in diameter with 10 to 15 blossoms could receive the full amount of points.

Color of Blossoms - (10 points) may be influenced by cultural conditions such as soil, fertilizer, and lights, but the color should be as described in the MVL.

What does all of this have to do with getting ready for show now?

1. Select your nicest, most symmetrical plants for show plants.
2. Disbud them completely and keep them disbudded for now.
3. Report them now, but not after three months prior to the show. The plants should be in optimum size pots for show - 1/3 the diameter of the plant.
4. Groom frequently for good symmetry.
5. Use good cultural methods:
  - consistent fertilizer
  - lights on 10 to 12 hours per day
  - consistent watering
  - mildew and pest prevention.

From *The Bloomin' Violet*,  
Newsletter of the Cedar Valley AVC, Cedar Falls, IA

# Leaves of an Addiction

by Lori Schaleen Nelson

It really wasn't my fault. It wasn't even about me; I was just trying to help a friend. She didn't even have a name. You see, my mom turned her over to me, and she was my responsibility. I gave her love, light, nourishment, care and attention, but she just didn't flourish. It was as if she didn't like living with me. Nothing I did made a difference. I tried talking to her, but it didn't help. She would not respond. In desperation, I turned to my Aunt Diane. She was much more experienced in these matters than I, much more worldly. Aunt Diane would know what to do!

I picked up the phone, hoping for a miracle. What was I doing wrong? My confident, experienced Aunt Diane knew the solution. In my innocence – in my efforts to help, I had unwittingly been making things worse for my friend. Aunt Diane gave me advice on how to hold on for a few more days, until she could send help. Four days later, a box arrived in the mail. Inside was all the help I needed to save my friend – but the leaves of an addiction for me.

New plastic pots, wicking material, plastic identification tags, fertilizer, perlite, and treatment for every possible ailment brought the poor, unidentified burgundy violet back from the doors of death, but that was the beginning of an obsession that grows to this day.

The leaves tucked in the box were carefully planted in soil formulated for African violets, not the "violet dirt" I so naively purchased from the local garden store. As I carefully gave a fresh 45 degree cut to the stem, my aunt's voice echoed in my head.

"You bought your soil WHERE? It's in a CLAY pot? Oh my gosh, how did it live this long? No, Texas-style potting is not a special pot made only in Texas. You have NEVER tested your soil pH? What do you MEAN you don't repot every year? No, no. Sweetheart, the leaves should be in threes – pick up your violet and look at..."

I told myself, there is no way I am going to end up like my Aunt Diane. She is totally and completely obsessive. Her violets are like her children and even have their own bedroom! Forget it! They are just plants! I am going to enjoy and grow the few she gave me, and that is all.

Just out of curiosity, for no other reason of course, I visited the Violet Showcase. Aunt Diane mentioned that they might have some self-watering ceramic pots. I thought that would mean less time I would have to spend taking care of them. They most certainly were not going to become my children!

The new violet I bought? Well, 'Dusty Blue' I just had to take home – my dog was named Dusty. And the order I placed with Rob's Violets? 'Rob's Ragamuffin' sounded a lot like my cat's name – Muffin. 'Rob's Mad Cat'? Another cat was always really grouchy, so that violet would remind me of him. 'Rob's Shadow Magic' and 'Ness' Orange Pekoe'? I didn't want my dogs Pekoe and Shadow to feel left out.

Slowly but surely, my collection grew. I tried to find excuses. I needed just a few more so I would have some color variety. 'Irish Flirt'? My boyfriend Shawn is Irish, and definitely a flirt! 'Rob's Bunny Hop'? I used to raise bunnies for 4-H of course! At this point, I have given up all pretenses. I can make up a million reasons why I NEED more violets, but the truth is I am addicted!

I should have known. It is entirely my aunt's fault. She and I are too much alike – we even look alike. She should have known what she was doing to me! I know what you are thinking...such is the refrain of the addict, right? It is always someone else's fault, but in my case it is true! Aunt Diane is to blame!

I suppose I am doing as well as could be expected. My violets are all nicely ordered on cards with description, dates repotted, etc. I even cut out pictures from the magazines and catalogues I have, for identification purposes, taping the pictures to the cards in case I happen to lose a tag. My babies are only watered with filtered water, and almost all are wicked.

I have all the proper tools, including tweezers and an Exacto knife, and just went through the emotional trauma of disbudding all forty of my violets when I found thrips.

"Don't worry, Sweetie," Aunt Diane assured me, "you haven't arrived in the violet world 'til you have had thrips!" Not much of a comforting thought as I tweezed off all of those beautiful blossoms. I was abusing my poor babies!

Shawn is busy building me a special potting desk and huge wooden light stands, housed in the basement for my propagation needs. My uncle and cousin have forbidden my aunt to talk about violets at the dinner table, but at least Shawn still lets me do that. My newfound interest in cross-pollinating appeals to his scientific side. He doesn't want any violets for his office, though. Now I just need to tell him that we have to re-vent and finish the basement so my babies get better air circulation. Hmm, I think I will wait and take him out to dinner to tell him that part.

# BORED?

by Cindy Nofziger

The other night as I was trying to decide whether to go to bed, I happened to look over at the bookcase where I keep my AVSA magazines and thought I would try to find a picture of a plant a friend said she was going to purchase. I wasn't sure which magazine the picture was in so I grabbed all the ones I had - ten years worth. Well, for the next two hours, I can't begin to tell you how much I enjoyed myself. As a member of an African violet club in Sacramento, we always encourage the new members to join AVSA and receive the magazine. It also helps if you have the membership forms handy at your meetings. Anyway, after going through one of the magazines, I realized I would need pencil and paper to write down all the plants I couldn't live without. After all, violets are like diamonds, you can never have enough.

I didn't realize what a treasure-trove we have in our magazine and how lucky we are today. There were so many people who went before us that "blazed the trail", so to speak. Who would have thought that back in 1947, when AVSA started, it would be as world-wide as it is today? Look how far we have come from the first violets to what we have now! Unfortunately, we still seem to have the same pests! The people hybridizing today just keep getting better and better with the new plants produced each year. They had to have learned from some of the early hybridizers and from the articles written for the magazine. If you look back on some of the older issues, you will notice the number of dedicated members, who for years, have written articles or held specific jobs. Joyce and Kent Stork have written a column for years. Where do they get the energy and ideas for their topics year

after year? Their articles are always well written, informative, and if you are having plant problems, this is a great place to find the answer. They helped me put out table favors at the Sacramento Convention. After seeing their picture from ten years ago, they'd better start selling their water along with their plants since they haven't aged at all! I noticed Iris Keating has been doing plant registration for many years, as has Barbara Elkin with the Vintage Violets. David Buttram has visited with the many hybridizers throughout the years. His articles are so enjoyable. It's fun meeting growers through the magazine that you have ordered plants from, and get a glimpse into their growing techniques. These are just some of the names I noticed. I am sure there are lots more I have missed.

I have learned things about some of the early members of AVSA. Do you know who Boyce Eden was, or that Irene Fredette produced *Allegro*? What about Anne Tinari who was instrumental in getting the African violet stamp, and Lyndon Lyon, whom we just recently lost? I also found three great plans to build your own plant stand. Do your newer members realize how easy and economical it is to build a plant stand if they aren't quite sure about buying one? There is such a wealth of information to be found within the pages: everything from growing techniques to where to buy the supplies, and of course, those special plants you can't live without. So do encourage all your members to join AVSA and share in the wealth of information available to us. And if you have nothing better to do, grab your older magazines, a pen, and paper, and sit back and enjoy yourself for the next couple of hours.

Join In  
**GIVE AN AWARD -**  
**YOUR NAME WILL BE NOTICED**

in the 2003 AVSA Baton Rouge Awards List in the Jan/Feb AVM!

Deadline: November 15, 2002.

To appear in the complete awards list for 2003 AVSA Baton Rouge Awards List,  
your award contribution must be received by November 15, 2002.

Please send your affiliate and individual awards, payable to AVSA Awards (in U.S. funds) to:

Sue Höffmann, AVSA Awards Chairman  
801 N. Villier Ct., Virginia Beach, VA 23452  
(757) 463-5383 or [susan.hoffmann@juno.com](mailto:susan.hoffmann@juno.com)

# A Family Portrait



**Georgene Albrecht**  
101 Oak Heights Dr.  
Oakdale, PA 15071

## **Streptocarpus formosus**

This is a very handsome species. *Streptocarpus formosus* (strep-toe-CAR-pus for-MOE-sus) produces one or two huge flowers per stem. The flower form is different than most streps. The corolla tube is very long, at least two to three inches, and the entire flower is over 3.5 inches when grown in natural light of summer. The flowers are closed with all three lower petals completely level with each other. They are angled at a charming stance that looks upward.

Foliage is very husky and slightly wavy, medium green. The registry says that it was listed by Weigend and Edwards in 1994 as a perennial in Natal and the Eastern Cape of Africa. The color of the flower is very soft lavender with a darker edging on the top petals. The throat is pale yellow and has spots of purple on the inside. The outside of the corolla is white. Petioles are red at the base and turn green as they grow.

Cyndi, a member of our Pittsburgh club, grew this from seed and gladly shared. She planted it in a clay pot in very light, airy soil mix. My plant is thirteen inches wide as I render this drawing. Growth was very fast in the south facing window. This is a keeper.

## **DROUGHT**

The horrid drought has a silver lining; thrips have all but disappeared. We have had 24 days above 90 degrees with no rain for six weeks. My indoor plants are just fine because they are watered with the drip water of the air conditioner. Fans run 24 hours a day, and this requires two waterings a week, one with fertilizer, the other plain.

My fertilizers are rotated with Peter's African Violet formula, Maxi Crop, a sea weed concentrate, Schultz bloom booster, DynaGro, and any 20-20-20 formula. This is a sure way to avoid micro-nutrient deficiencies. All my plants are top-watered so I really don't need to leach fertilizer salts. They

go in the blanket matting under each plant. I wash the blanket every six months. I have absolutely no luck wicking. Every year I try a couple, and in a month they have a malady of some sort, mostly crown rot.

## **EXTREME SUCKERS**

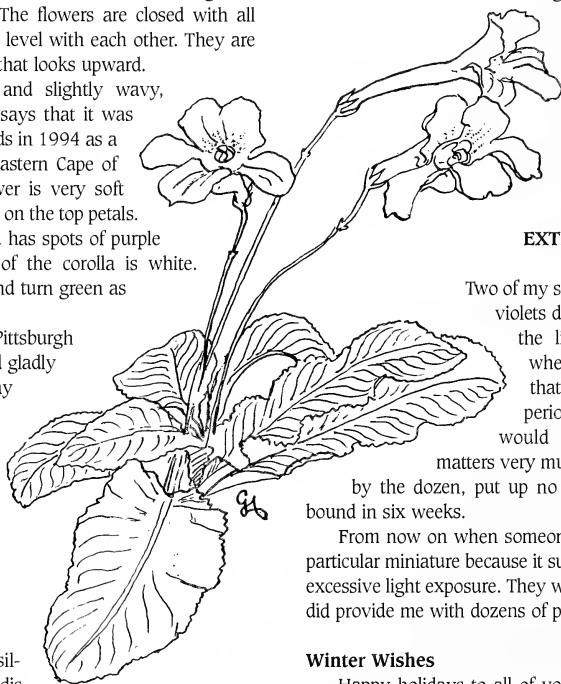
Two of my shelves with miniature African violets do not have a timer to turn off the light. I unplug them rarely, when I remember. Having read that violets do not need a rest period or darkness, I thought it would not hurt. Guess what? It matters very much. They all started to sucker

by the dozen, put up no or small buds, and get pot-bound in six weeks.

From now on when someone says that they don't like a particular miniature because it suckers, my reply will be about excessive light exposure. They were ruined for the exhibit, but did provide me with dozens of plants to sell.

## **Winter Wishes**

Happy holidays to all of you. I am asking Santa for gift certificates from our advertisers. Even though my growing space is full, there is always room for another new plant. The thrill of watching that seed germinate, that plantlet come up from that leaf, or that new variety bloom open is just thrilling. Enjoy a great New Year of growing.





# PROVIDING “HAPPY HOMES” FOR YOUR PLANT’S ROOTS

by Sue Gardner

## ROOTS

Roots are very important parts of every plant. The African violet has a shallow fibrous root system. It has two functions:

1. It anchors the plant and supports it in an upright position.
2. The roots absorb water and minerals needed by plant to produce food and to grow.

Roots can grow very rapidly and are very extensive. For instance, it has been shown that a rapidly growing rye plant has up to 15 billion roots, growing about 5km of roots and 88km of root hairs per day.

These hairs (which are confined to the area of root just behind the tip) twine around soil particles to absorb water and mineral ions through their very thin walls. Root hairs take up water as much as six times faster than cells in older regions of the root. Unfortunately, the life span of root hairs is very short. When they die, absorption ceases. So we need to keep the root system growing to continually replace dead root hairs.

## HOW DO WE PROVIDE A HAPPY HOME FOR ROOTS?

### POTS

What type of pot is best for African violet roots? Different types of pots change the environment within the potting mix. Terracotta, or clay pots, lose much water through evaporation. This keeps the potting mix cool (or cold in winter). It also causes fertilizer build-up in the potting mix and around the rim of the pot. Terracotta pots also are difficult to clean.

Plastic pots are inexpensive, easy to clean, do not lose water as quickly as terracotta, and do not become as cold in winter. Another advantage is in the shape. Plastic pots are available in shallow shapes that are best for the shallow fibrous root systems of African violets. In deeper pots, there will be a layer of wet, unused potting mix at the bottom that can develop rot, crown rot, or other problems.

The size of the pot is important. A pot with a diameter which is one-third the size of the leaf span is ideal. This allows the root system to grow comfortably without the danger of rot.

## POTTING MIX

Potting mix should be free of insect pests, nematodes, and pathogenic fungi. It should provide air spaces. Without oxygen, the roots cannot absorb enough mineral salts for the plant to grow. When you remove a healthy plant from its pot, you can see abundant root growth on the outside of the potting mix where more air is available. To help preserve air spaces, don't pack the mix down hard in the pot.

The mix should also provide correct ion exchange capacity and hold enough water for plant usage. In a soil-less mix, the perlite causes air spaces, peat provides sufficient ion exchange capacity, and the vermiculite and peat can hold sufficient water for plant needs.

## FERTILIZER

As we use a soil-less potting mix without added fertilizer, all the minerals our plants need must be provided. Wicking with a diluted fertilizer solution can provide a constant flow of these to the roots. The roots then supply these raw materials to the leaf “factories” which make food for the plant. The roots then use some of this food to grow and to do the work of absorbing minerals.

Too much fertilizer can gradually change the pH of the potting mix and make it toxic. Too little causes starvation. Use a balanced fertilizer of correct concentration. Remember that as soil-less mixes contain fewer of the bacteria needed to convert urea or ammonium salts to a form the plant can absorb, it is best to avoid fertilizers with high concentrations of these ingredients.

## WHAT ABOUT HORMONES?

Hormones can be useful to promote development of adventitious roots in leaf and crown cuttings. It can also be used to paint bare stem areas when many leaves are removed. We can use rooting powder or solution.

However, if we add hormones to growing roots, they only stimulate root growth slightly when in minute concentrations. As soon as the concentration rises above one thousandth of a milligram per litre of water, growth is inhibited. So perhaps it is best to use hormones only with cuttings.

From the *Newsletter* of the Early Morn AV Group, Australia

# Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene J. Buck • 17235 N. 106th Avenue • Sun City, AZ 85373-1958

Donations received from June 1, 2002 - July 31, 2002

Office Violets and Lunch, Houston, TX . . . . .	\$10.00	Jeanne Senay, Des Peres, MO . . . . .	\$5.00	Dorothy and Frank Burton, Old Saybrook, CT . . . . .	\$50.00
Town and Country Violet Club, Minot, ND . . . . .	25.00	Wade A. Nolan, Jacksonville, FL . . . . .	5.00	<i>In memory of Frank A. Tnari.</i>	
<i>In memory of Malbert Ott, a charter member in 1957.</i>		Danville AVS, Danville, VA . . . . .	5.00	<i>A lifelong supporter and builder of AVSA.</i>	
Central New Jersey AVS, Bordentown, NJ . . . . .	25.00	Tustana AVS, Anaheim, CA . . . . .	10.00	Gulf AV Club, Ft. Myers, FL . . . . .	10.00
<i>In memory of Thomas Cieslik</i>		<i>In loving memory of Denzel Probert</i>		<i>In memory of Harry B. Scott, husband of our member Lillian Scott</i>	
The Tidewater of AVS, Norfolk, VA . . . . .	25.00	Elizabeth Mathes, Vestavia Hills, AL . . . . .	5.00	Gulf AV Club, Ft. Meyer, FL . . . . .	10.00
<i>In memory of Bill Stahl</i>		African Violet Society of Springfield, Delaware Co., PA . . . . .	15.00	<i>In memory of Ida Grace Gastinger</i>	
Union County Chapter AVSA, NJ . . . . .	25.00	<i>In memory of Frank A. Tnari, Sr.</i>		Memphis AVS, Memphis, TN . . . . .	10.00
Corpus Christi African Violet Society, Corpus Christi, TX . . . . .	25.00	African Violet Society of Springfield, Delaware Co., PA . . . . .	15.00	Margaret M. Killough, St. Petersburg, FL . . . . .	25.00
North Star AV Council, Coon Rapids, MN . . . . .	15.00	<i>In memory of Eileen Morrison</i>		<i>In memory of Frank A. Tnari, Sr.</i>	
Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council, St. Louis, MO . . . . .	40.00	African Violet Society of Springfield, Delaware Co., PA . . . . .	25.00	Susan B. Hoffmann, Virginia Beach, VA . . . . .	25.00
<i>In memory of Ray Meiners and Evelyn Heins</i>		San Mateo AVS, Redwood City, CA . . . . .	40.00	<i>In memory of Frank A. Tnari, Sr.</i>	
Union County Chapter AVSA, NJ . . . . .	20.00	<i>In memory of Ralph Braden</i>		African Violet Society of Philadelphia, PA . . . . .	25.00
<i>In memory of Thomas Cieslik</i>		WAVES, Hillsboro, MO . . . . .	10.00	<i>In memory of Frank A. Tnari, Sr.</i>	
Crosstown African Violet Club, Madison, WI . . . . .	15.00	<i>In memory of Frank A. Tnari, Sr.</i>		The African Violet Council of Southern California . . . . .	25.00
Sharon Hardwick, Slagle, LA . . . . .	25.00	Tustana AVS, Anaheim, CA . . . . .	10.00	<i>In memory of Dee Probert</i>	
Dr. William E. H. Price, Vancouver, Canada . . . . .	25.00	<i>In memory of Frank A. Tnari, Sr.</i>		Delta Gesneriad and AVS, Sacramento, CA . . . . .	15.00
Leslie Cox, Newbury Park, CA . . . . .	5.00	Tustana AVS, Anaheim, CA . . . . .	10.00	Amand Arata, Leonia, NJ . . . . .	10.00
Scott Libby, Raymond, ME . . . . .	1.00	<i>In memory of Ralph Braden</i>		<i>In memory of Gladys J. M. Smith</i>	
Martha Spyridon, Delray Beach, FL . . . . .	10.00	WAVES, Hillsboro, MO . . . . .	10.00	Garramone, Bay Shore, NY . . . . .	10.00
Florence S. Roberts, Panama . . . . .	10.00	<i>In memory of Frank A. Tnari, Sr.</i>		Apgar, Newton, NJ . . . . .	5.00
Miwa Nakamura, Tokyo, Japan . . . . .	10.00				

## AVSA BOOSTER FUND

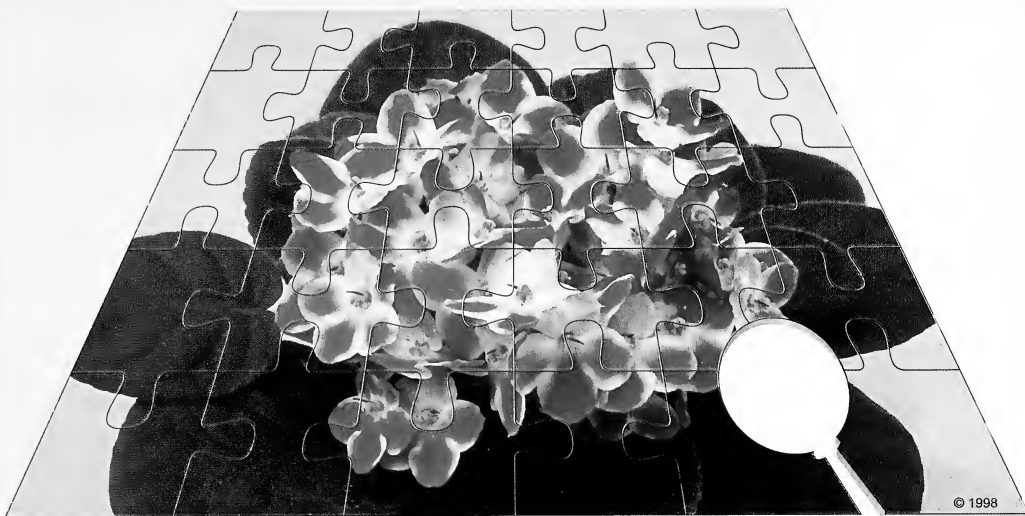
Shirley Berger

4343 Schumacher Rd- 196E • Sebring, FL 33872

CONTRIBUTIONS APRIL 1 - MAY 31, 2002

Office Violets and Lunch, Houston, TX . . . . .	\$10.00	Central Jersey AVS, Milltown, NJ . . . . .	\$20.00	AVS of Greater Tulsa, Tulsa, OK . . . . .	\$25.00
Ruth and Burgess Goeke, Brenham, TX . . . . .	10.00	<i>In memory of Tom Cieslik, member and friend</i>		<i>In memory of long-time member Mrs. Kaye Burnham</i>	
<i>In memory of Bill Lyons</i>		Central Jersey AVS . . . . .	20.00	Windsor AVS, Bloomfield, CT . . . . .	50.00
Kuen, Elizabeth, East Haven, CT . . . . .	30.00	<i>In memory of Bill Lyons, who did so much for African violet clubs</i>		<i>In memory of Bill Lyons</i>	
Pursley, Jeannette, Austin, TX . . . . .	1.90	Union County Chapter AVSA . . . . .	25.00	Nancy and John Hayes, Bloomfield, CT . . . . .	50.00
Spyridon, Martha, Delray Beach, FL . . . . .	10.00	<i>In memory of Bill Lyons</i>		<i>In memory of Bill Lyons</i>	
Bowers, Linda, Cranston, RI . . . . .	15.00	Mid-Polk AVS, WinterHaven, FL . . . . .	10.00	WAVES, Owensboro, KY . . . . .	10.00
Mosher, Donna, Grove City, OH . . . . .	20.00	<i>In memory of Jeff Partain, son of member Judy Partain</i>		Tustana AVS, Orange, CA . . . . .	10.00
Miklica, Patricia, San Jose, CA . . . . .	2.00	Kay and Bill Lyons, Levittown, PA . . . . .	25.00	<i>In memory of Bill Lyons</i>	
W. E. Clarke, Napean, ON, Canada . . . . .	10.00	<i>In memory of Frank Tnari, good friend</i>		Wilma Namumnart, Honolulu, HI . . . . .	5.00
Tara AVS, Stockbridge, GA . . . . .	15.00	Corpus Christi AVS, Corpus Christi, TX . . . . .	25.00	<i>In memory of Bill Lyons</i>	
<i>In memory of Bill Lyons</i>		<i>In memory of Bill Lyons</i>		Gertrude Morabito, Painesville, OH . . . . .	20.00
Janet Riemer, Pennington, NJ . . . . .	25.00	North Star AV Council, Coon Rapids, MN . . . . .	15.00	<i>In memory of Bill Lyons</i>	
<i>In memory of Bill Lyons</i>		Tristate AV Council, Lafayette, NJ . . . . .	100.00	Itsuko Ishimoto, Honolulu, HI . . . . .	10.00
Anne and Frank Tnari, Huntingdon Valley, PA . . . . .	25.00	<i>In memory of Bill Lyons</i>		<i>In memory of Bill Lyons</i>	
<i>In memory of Bill Lyons, dear friend and well-deserving Honorary Life Member of AVSA</i>		African Violet Club of Morris County, Lafayette, NJ . . . . .	50.00	San Mateo AVS, San Mateo, CA . . . . .	25.00
NASA Area AVS, Seabrook, CT . . . . .	10.00	<i>In memory of Bill Lyons</i>		<i>In memory of Bill Lyons</i>	
<i>In memory of Bill Lyons</i>		Wade A. Nolan, Jacksonville, FL . . . . .	5.00	Penelope A. Wezel, Ulster, PA . . . . .	25.00
TriState AV Council, Lafayette, NJ . . . . .	50.00	Morgan G. Smith, Sr., Staatsburg, NY . . . . .	10.00	<i>In memory of Bill Lyons</i>	
<i>In memory of Tom Cieslik, long-time member</i>		Delta Gesneriad and AVS, Sacramento, CA . . . . .	15.00	Sue Hoffmann, Virginia Beach, VA . . . . .	25.00
Don and Jean Ness, White Bear Lake, MN . . . . .	20.00	Patricia Apgar, Newton, NJ . . . . .	5.00	<i>In memory of Bill Lyons</i>	
<i>In memory of Bill Lyons, friend</i>		Linda Garramore, Bayshore, NY . . . . .	10.00	AVS of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA . . . . .	10.00
Dale Jusatis, Bordentown, NJ . . . . .	25.00	<i>In memory of Gerald McCann</i>		<i>In memory of Bill Lyons</i>	
<i>In memory of Bill Lyons, an AVSA booster in every sense of the word</i>		The Crosstown AVC, Madison, WI . . . . .	15.00	Amand Arata, Leonia, NJ . . . . .	10.00
Danville, AVS, Danville, VA . . . . .	5.00	First Austin, AVS, San Marcos, TX . . . . .	25.00	<i>In memory of Gerald McCann</i>	
		<i>In memory of member Mary Lankford</i>			

TOTAL . . . . . \$933.90



## What's Missing From This Picture?

Chances are, few of today's garden centers know as much about growing African Violets as you do. No doubt, this explains why so many knowledgeable Violet growers have a hard time finding the products they need. For anyone who knows what it takes to grow beautiful, full-blooming African Violets, it can be like putting together a puzzle, only to find there's a piece missing. We know the feeling. That's why we started the Selective Gardener, a plant care supplier that specializes in products for African Violets.

### Everything You Need to Grow Beautiful, Full-Blooming African Violets

The Selective Gardener makes it easy to get the products you need. As a plant care supplier that specializes in African Violets, the Selective Gardener carries a full line of plant care products with brand names like Optimara.

- Fully-dissolving, urea-free fertilizers
- Self-watering devices such as the Watermaid and the new, spill-proof Optimara WaterShip
- Ultralight, pH-balanced potting media
- Pots, trays and plant covers
- Show accessories and more

### From Leaf Cuttings to Finished Violets

In addition to plant care products, the Selective Gardener offers African Violets in several pot sizes, including genuine Miniatures. You can also order leaf cuttings from all of the available Optimara and Rhapsodie varieties.

### A Complete African Violet Resource

The Selective Gardener is a complete African Violet resource. Send for the Selective Gardener catalog, and you will find offers for plant care products, Violets and leaf cuttings, even books and posters. Or go online, and you will find even more. At the Selective Gardener's internet site (<http://www.selectivegardener.com>), you will have access to a number of resources not available anywhere else.

- Growing tips from the world famous Holtkamp Greenhouses
- Complete interactive Violet identification guide
- Links to other useful sites such as Doctor Optimara, a symptom-based, interactive guide for diagnosing pests and pathogens
- Reviews of African Violet products

**(Tip:** If you do not have access to the internet, try your public library. Many libraries, now, provide computers for public use, as well as helpful assistance for anyone wanting to go online.)

### The Selective Gardener Catalog

To receive the Selective Gardener catalog, send \$1 (which will be credited to your first order) with your name and address to:

The Selective Gardener  
6011 Martingale Lane  
Brentwood, TN 37027

Or visit us online at  
<http://www.selectivegardener.com>.



# Growing and Healing, Therapy through African Violets

Laurie A.E. O'Meara

Artist and Horticulturist

ODH, Ornamental Horticulture

Cape Cod, MA

We are all aware of the more obvious benefits in growing our African violets. The beauty of the blossoms and foliage, the sharing of cultural knowledge and making new social contacts in our clubs or at the convention, hybridizing, and the joy of starting a new plant from a leaf are all part of the rewards in growing and showing our plants. But is there more that we gain from these wonderful plants? I think so.

I personally have been growing all types of plants for over 20 years, but I made a decision to become a horticulturist for another reason. To heal myself. Several years ago I was in a car accident. It was a serious accident that caused six months of physical healing. In addition, after the aches and pains were gone there were still some issues to address. My memory, ability to remain focused, basically some of the functions we all take for granted were affected. My life was tossed completely upside down, but my experience is not the only type that can throw our lives into a temporary tizzy. Death of a loved one, loss of a job, moving, having a child, any trauma to our expected life schedules can create a feeling of being "lost". I think plants in general, and African violets in particular, can aid in helping us to again feel like we are "found".

African violets are easy to grow, they generally bloom easily, and other than proper watering, light conditions and soil mix, they make few demands on their caretakers. But I think there is something more than the ease of care that comes with each African violet we own. For example, my mother had a beautiful antique dry-sink in her sewing room when I was a child. It was lined in copper and full of blooming African violets. My mother never belonged to a club (I don't think there was one in our area), never thought about whether she was growing her violets "right". She just grew them. This is an example of how African violets can bring joy all by themselves, even if we do also purposefully grow them to their fullest potential. I will always remember that dry-sink and the beautiful blossoms. I thought of it often when piecing my own life back together through the joy of plants. We all have memories of someone in our lives who has grown African violets, I would guess. How does this help in healing? I'll tell you.

When our lives are no longer what we expect, when we find ourselves trying to face each day with a new challenge, we tend, I think, to be drawn back to those things that are familiar. Or we are drawn toward beauty. We are drawn toward

things that make us feel better. I am not a counselor or psychologist, but I see how the sharing of African violets brings joy into peoples lives. I have had numerous emails from people who have purchased a plant from me. Many of their comments sound like "you don't know how much this means to me." (if I included an extra), or "(blank) just happened to me and violets are helping me get back on my feet", or "I have been upset and repotting the violets has calmed me down." These comments then touch my life, and good feelings are had by all. I feel that few other plant groups create these positive emotions as easily as African violets. There is just something "special" about them.

There have been studies done on plants and healing; in my horticultural training, we learned about building gardens accessible to all. It was shown that the act of touching plants, growing plants, and the other physical and psychological benefits of being connected to nature are instrumental in helping people cope with stress or illness. One article, for those of you with on-line access, is called Horticultural Healing, by Friends Hospital, and is at <http://www.friendshospitalonline.org/horththerapy.htm>. Another good link is <http://www.hort.vt.edu/human/profit.html> which lists associations throughout the world that deal with Horticultural Therapy. Many botanical gardens now have programs in Horticultural Therapy, and for those who don't have on-line access, your local botanical garden may be the place to explore this concept.

Those are some references for those of you who want to look further into the studies or ongoing research and programs, but let's get back to African violets. There is a simplicity, a wholeness, and a fulfilling joy in every African violet. I have collections of trees, cacti, geraniums, orchids, etc., etc., but what catches my eye in my house when I am feeling down? Blue Tail Fly, Tropical Sherbet, *Saintpaulia grandifolia* #299, Biscayne Trail, the list goes on. My gaze will stop at a violet, and even now I sometimes gasp a bit at the simple beauty in these plants, confidently throwing their blossoms up to the sky. Reaching out. We can reach out ourselves, imitating the simple act of giving our best, as our African violets do.

Many of AVM's readers are at the top of the list for those who share their plants, but for those who haven't yet thought

of how the simple act of giving an African violet can enrich a life, or help someone to heal, consider these:

# IF

- you are near a nursing home, the nurse's station is an area most patients see, and one plant can bring a smile to many
- you know of a person who is homebound or ill or far from family
- you heard the man down the street lost his dog
- someone is just a little teary-eyed when you stop by because September 11th photos are on the news again
- the mail carrier has had to trounce through three days of rain or heat and needs cheering

- a child can't go on the school trip and needs a new project to explore
- there is no special reason at all

Then consider the joy this little plant will bring to that person after you give it; the person will feel cheered, will feel connected to someone nice, will feel appreciated, will feel like maybe they aren't as lost as they thought. They may not realize it right away, but in a week, or a month, or three months, when their plant blooms again, when they call you to ask how to re-pot, whenever they are reminded of the violet, they will smile. That smile is the universal sign of a person who has started the road to healing themselves, through the gift you have given them. The simple gift of an African violet.

## Speakin' Cajun

by Elmer Godeny (Part 3 of 4)

In this installment of our Cajun Dictionary, we will continue with food items found on many menus in Baton Rouge and

South Louisiana. These terms make any true Cajun's mouth water. Many of these definitions are provided by Louisiana's internationally known Chef John Folse.

**Andouille** (ahn-do'-ee) - A spicy country sausage used in Gumbo and other Cajun dishes.

**Crawfish** (craw'-fish) - Sometimes pronounced and spelled "crayfish" by Yankees but always pronounced crawfish in South Louisiana. A crustacean resembling tiny lobsters. Locally known as "mudbugs" because they live in the mud of freshwater bayous. They are served in a variety of ways including simply boiled.

**Dirty Rice** - Pan-fried leftover cooked rice sautéed with green peppers, onions, celery, stock, liver, giblets and many other

ingredients. Many people substitute ground beef or ground pork in place of the liver.

**Mirliton** (mel-eh-tawn') - A hard-shelled squash, sometimes called a vegetable pear, with edible innards. It is cooked like squash and stuffed with either ham or shrimp and spicy dressing.

**Muffuletta** (muf-a-lot'-ta) - A huge sandwich made up of thick layers of several types of different Italian meats, cheeses, and a layer of olive salad. Served on special, round muffuletta bread.

**Po-boy** - Another sandwich extravaganza, which began as a 5¢ lunch for - who else? - poor boys. There are fried oyster po-boys, shrimp po-boys, soft-shell crab po-boys, roast beef and gravy po-boys and others. All are served on a crispy-crust loaf French bread. If you order one of these, you will be asked if you want it "dressed", which usually means lettuce, tomato, onions, pickles, mayonnaise and mustard.



# Showcase

## *Rob's Fiddle Faddle*

*Best Semiminiature  
2002 AVSA National Show  
Exhibited by: Kathy Lahti  
Hybridized by: R. Robinson*



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

## *Blackberry Jam*

*Exhibited by: Janet Graves  
Hybridized by: S. Sorano  
Large*



Photo Credit: Fran Russom

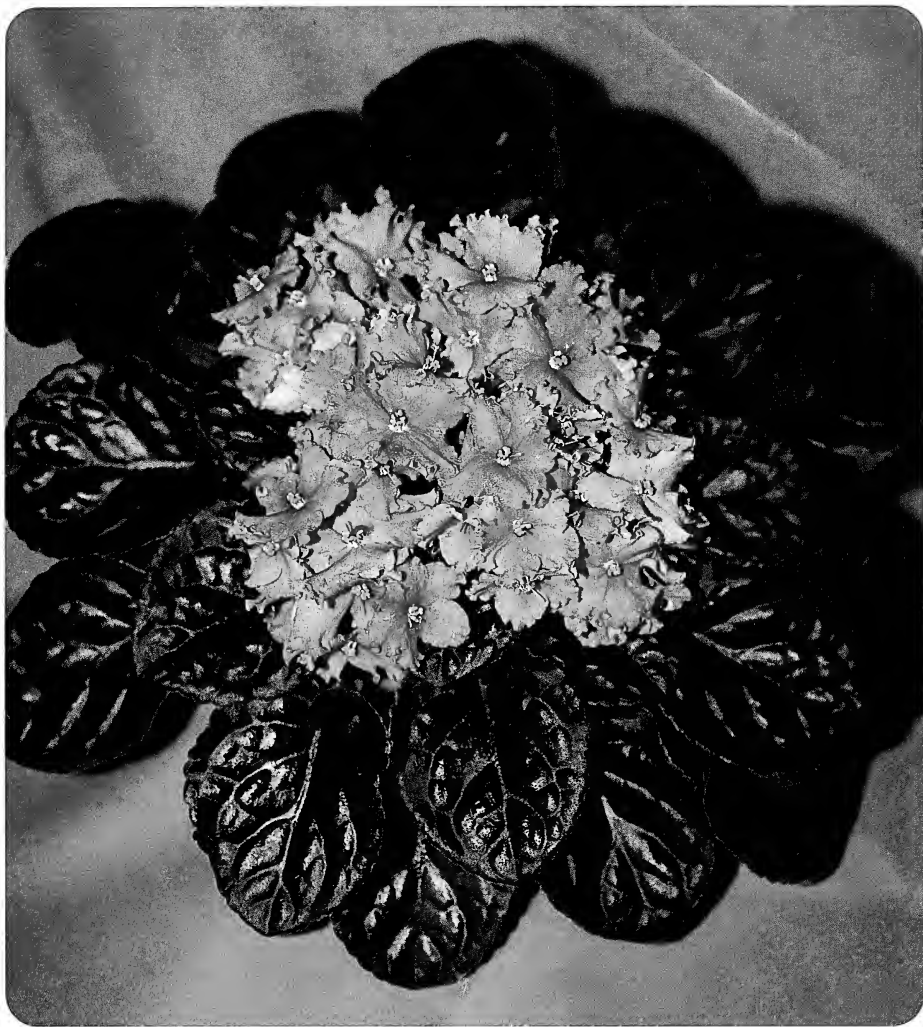


Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

## *Pink Patti*

*From Best AVSA Collection*

*2002 AVSA National Show*

*Exhibited and Hybridized by: **Marie Burns***

*Large*

# Recognizing and Correcting Light Problems

by Amy Cash-Allison • Montgomery, IL

African violets obviously need the proper type and amount of light to perform their best. Our plants clearly tell us when lighting stress creates problems with their growth. As growers, it is our job to learn to recognize these signs so that we know when our plants are happy or lacking something. Top winning show plants epitomize the results of correct culture and lighting. Their leaves lay flat and overlap, demonstrating the proper "pinwheel" appearance. There are very few gaps between the leaves, the petioles grow to a proportionate length, and the soil is unnoticeable through the foliage. If you can understand how violets behave in response to lighting issues, you can put into motion the steps to correct them. Most likely, they will thank you by performing how you have always hoped they would.

## Excessive Light

Typically, excessive light (either in intensity or day length or both) will exhibit these symptoms:

- The general appearance of the plant will be weak. The color will be very pale, and there will be little or no gloss to the foliage, especially on older leaves. I have also seen the opposite effect where the leaves darken nearly to a black color and cultivars that are supposed to have silver backs turn red.
- The outer leaves may also become blotched with yellow markings or areas, and they die off much more quickly than normal.
- The crown becomes tight and crowded. Occasionally, the plant will begin to grow upright, but growth is tight instead of open.
- The leaves will be brittle, hard, and often curl or wrap down around the rim of the pot.
- The stems of the leaves will usually be short and thick and will sometimes start to bend.
- Oftentimes, the plant will lean away from the light source.
- The plant will bloom, and the flowers are intensely colored, but short-lived. The peduncles will have trouble clearing the thick growth of foliage.
- Rust- or bronze-colored "burn" or scorched blotches may appear on the leaves. Sometimes holes may develop due to burns.
- The plant may sucker more than normal.
- Overall growth of the plant may be stunted or slow.
- Sometimes fantasied cultivars will revert to solid colors, or you may also notice more mutations among your plants.

- Over time, especially after correcting the problem, the leaves may develop a crackled appearance, almost like stained glass.
- Variegated varieties will revert to solid green.

If you grow under artificial light, examine your set-up. What types of bulbs are you using? What is the wattage on those bulbs, and how close are the bulbs to the tops of your plants? Most growers use two 40-watt bulbs in either wide spectrum or cool white (or a combination) for each shelf. The bulbs should be approximately 8-10 inches from the tops of miniatures and semi-miniatures and 12-16 inches away from the tops of standards. You can try to move the more sensitive plants to dimmer areas on the shelves, such as the outside row or to the ends of the lights, as light will be more intense near the center of the fixtures. You may also try installing two lower wattage bulbs into one fixture and using this shelf for your more light-sensitive plants. It is generally recommended that you not mix different wattage bulbs in one fixture, since it may shorten the life of the ballast. If you use artificial light and are already following these guidelines, start by repotting your plants and reducing or stopping fertilizer use. Then you might try to reduce the amount of time the lights are on each day. Try an hour or two less the first two weeks and use your plants' reaction as a guide. It will take quite some time for the foliage to relax. Also, you might try raising the lights higher above the plants. If none of these options bring acceptable results, maybe try putting that particular plant into natural light or give it away to a friend.

If growing with natural light, try moving your plant further from that window, move it to another location, or place more shading material in between the window and the plants.

## Light Deficiency

When plants do not receive enough light, either in day length or intensity, here are some symptoms:

- Leaves will be spread out and general growth very open so that the soil is easily seen.
- The leaf stems will be unusually long and may bend and twist to expose the leaf surface to the most available light source.
- The leaves will not overlap, but will fan up and out.
- The plant will begin to lean **toward** the light source.
- The leaves will reach upwards, instead of laying down flat.
- The plant will fail to bloom.



- The overall appearance of the plant will be poor or weak, and the lower leaves may die off at a higher rate than normal.

If you use artificial light, reduce the amount of space between your plants and bulbs or leave the lights on for a longer amount of time each day. Increase day length only one hour per week. You may also need to change your bulbs if they are old, but change only one at a time in each fixture to avoid shocking the plants from overexposure. If you grow in the window, experiment with different windows in your house, preferably east or south (with protection). Notice what kind of light the plants are getting at all times of the day. A south window will receive strong light for the entire day unless a tree helps to shade the sun. A west window may be

too intense in the afternoon if there is no shade, and a north window may be too dark to support strong growth and blooms.

To grow substantially better violets, a compact light cart or portable tabletop fixture is an excellent investment that you will never regret purchasing. Even an inexpensive under-the-cabinet light fixture will help. Most of the best plants are generally grown under lights, since the conditions are controllable. Of course, show-winning plants have been grown in windows, but they require extra attention to provide proper light intensity, a back-up plan for cloudy days, and daily turning for symmetrical growth. Watch the way your plants are reacting to their light source. Remember - whatever you do, make one change at a time and give the plants plenty of time to communicate with you. Good luck!



# How To Get Rid Of Mites With Hot Water

by Zelda Owens

Several years ago, I bought an African violet at a local greenhouse in the orphanage section for 50 cents. It had two-tone flowers and was very pretty. At the time, I didn't know to isolate a new plant or plants for at least two months, so I put this beautiful plant with my other African violets. I did not belong to either Bay State or All Seasons African Violet Club at the time and knew very little about African violets. I had recently joined AVSA and had received a few magazines that I enjoyed. About two weeks after buying this plant, I noticed the center leaves had bunched up and become very hairy in the middle. Uh, oh, I thought, something is really wrong.

My daughter had bought me the book, *All About African Violets* by Montague Free, and after doing some research, I realized my plant had spider or cyclamen mites. I bought a house plant insect spray and started spraying. I soon found out that insect sprays do not kill mites.

After reading further, I came across "The Hot Water Treatment" recommended by Dr. Floyd Smith, Senior Entomologist of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. This treatment

requires complete immersion of plants in hot water at exactly 110 degrees for fifteen minutes. You need a candy thermometer, a timer, the kitchen sink, and paper towels. The water temperature has to be correct: too cold and it won't kill the mites, too hot and it might kill the plants.

Wrap paper towels under the leaves, before dunking the plants, to keep the soil in the pot. This can get quite messy. When the timer goes off, you must remove the plants from the water and put them on paper towels to dry, away from direct sunlight. As I stated before, I did not have many plants, and the only ones affected were the ones touching the 'bad' plant. The only plant that I ended up throwing away was the 'new' infected plant. I was able to save the rest, as they were now mite free! I still, to this day, believe this is the most effective, least expensive, and safest method to get rid of mites, if your collection is small. I guess you could use this method with a larger collection, but it would be quite time consuming, not to mention the mess!

From *Ye Bay Stater*, publication of the Bay State AVS

# Showcase

## *Superman*

*50 Year Old Plant*

*Exhibited and Hybridized by:*

***Ethel Champion***

*(Editor Note: Read the story of  
"Superman" on page 16 in the  
November/December 1998 AVM)*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*

## *Fairy Fountains*

*Exhibited by: Kitty Hedgepeth*

*Hybridized by: P. Tracey*

*Semiminiature Trailer*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*

# African Violet



*Saintpaulia grotei*

## The 2002 Supplement to the African Violet Master List of Species and Cultivars

This is the 2002 supplement to the *African Violet Master List of Species and Cultivars* (AVML, formerly MVL). This supplement includes all cultivars appearing in the 2002 Registration Reports, descriptions of non-registered cultivars provided by hybridizers during that same period, and changes to previous listings. The AVML and its supplements provide a timely, concise, and accurate tool for classifying, judging, and exhibiting African violets.

The database is available in electronic format as the "First Class" computer program for Windows®. It includes photographs of many of the cultivars. Current price is \$25, including six months of on-line database updates. Contact the Beaumont office to order.

Send corrections and/or hybridizer's descriptions of cultivars to Joe Bruns, 1220 Stratford Lane, Hanover Park IL 60133-2667, or e-mail [jbruns@attbi.com](mailto:jbruns@attbi.com).

# The 2002 Supplement to the African Violet Master List

Compiled by Joe Bruns, African Violet Master List Chairman

Supplement to *African Violet Magazine*

Volume 55, Number 6

November/December 2002

\* designates change

- Aca's Eloise\*** ..... (9117) 04/20/2002 (J. Brownlie) Single-semidouble red and white pansy. Light green, plain, quilted. **Semiminiature**
- Aca's Megan** ..... (9118) 04/20/2002 (J. Brownlie/Guelph University) Semidouble-double light pink ruffled star/thin white-green edge. Light green, quilted, glossy, wavy, serrated. **Large**
- Allegro Cupid Pink** ..... (J. Stromborg) Single pink pansy/darker eye, notched tips. Medium green, plain. **Semiminiature**
- Allegro Jester's Pinwheel** .... (J. Stromborg) Single chimera pink pansy/lavender stripe. Dark green, quilted/red back. **Semiminiature**
- Allegro Lyric\*** ..... (8859) 03/31/2000 (J. Stromborg) Semidouble hot pink frilled pansy/red eye. Light green, serrated. **Standard**
- Allegro Moon Memories** ..... (J. Stromborg) Semidouble medium blue-violet pansy/darker eye. Dark green, heart-shaped, quilted, scalloped/red back. **Standard**
- Allegro Moon Shadow** ..... (J. Stromborg) Semidouble pale lavender ruffled star/dark purple eye. Dark green, serrated/red back. **Standard**
- Allegro Palette Pink** ..... (J. Stromborg) Semidouble-double hot pink pansy/darker eye. Medium green, quilted, serrated. **Standard**
- Allegro Pirouette** ..... (J. Stromborg) Single dark magenta pansy/thin white edge. Dark green, quilted, holly/red back. **Standard**
- Allegro Prairie Rose** ..... (J. Stromborg) Semidouble hot pink pansy/red eye, pale pink ruffled edge. Medium green, scalloped/red back. **Standard**
- Allegro Roulette** ..... (J. Stromborg) Single magenta frilled pansy/variable white patches. Dark green, ruffled, scalloped/red back. **Large**
- Allegro Tambourine** ..... (J. Stromborg) Single chimera white pansy/lavender stripe. Light green, pointed, serrated. **Standard**
- Allegro Winsome Pink** ..... (J. Stromborg) Double pink pansy/lighter ruffled edge. Dark green, wavy/red back. **Miniature**
- Antique Rose Lace** ..... (9073) 10/19/2001 (G. Gay) Single-semidouble lavender ruffled pansy/fuchsia-rose overlay. **Variegated** dark green, white and pink, plain, ruffled. **Standard**
- Beca's Botswana** ..... (C. Beca) Double white/blue-purple shading. Medium green, glossy, wavy, scalloped. **Semiminiature**
- Beca's Zimbabwe** ..... (C. Beca) Semidouble-double cerise-pink pansy. Dark green, serrated. **Semiminiature**
- Brian's Quest** ..... (G.T. Smith) Semidouble fuchsia pansy. **Variegated** medium green and white, plain. **Standard**
- Buckeye Dimstore Novel\*** .. (9074) 11/09/2001 (P. Hancock) Semidouble white large star/variable pink eye, rays. **Variegated** dark green, cream and pink, plain/red back. **Large**
- Buckeye Dress Parade\*** ..... (9075) 11/09/2001 (P. Hancock) Semidouble white large ruffled star/variable light pink eye, edge. **Variegated** medium green and cream, heart-shaped, quilted. **Large**
- Buckeye Incognito** ..... (9076) 11/09/2001 (P. Hancock) Semidouble fuchsia large ruffled star/white edge. **Variegated** dark green, pink and cream, plain, glossy, scalloped/red back. **Large**
- Cabbage Patch** ..... (E. Champion) Double light pink ruffled. **Crown variegated** dark green and ivory, plain. **Standard**
- Cha's Falen Michelle** ..... (9142) 7/23/02 (C. Jennings) Double blue-purple ruffled/variable pink fantasy; red-purple edge. Medium green, scalloped/red back. **Semiminiature**
- Cha's Pookie** ..... (9143) 7/23/02 (C. Jennings) Single lavender-pink ruffled pansy/purple fantasy. Medium green, quilted, glossy, ruffled/red back. **Standard**

<b>Champion's Doris</b> .....	(E. Champion) Semidouble bright coral star/purple fantasy. <b>Crown variegated</b> medium green and cream, ruffled. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Champion's Dreamland</b> .....	(E. Champion) Semidouble light pink ruffled star/white eye. <b>Crown variegated</b> light-dark green, plain. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Champion's Flash Point</b> .....	(E. Champion) Double purple ruffled/pink fantasy. <b>Crown variegated</b> dark green, pink and tan, plain. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Champion's Thriller</b> .....	(E. Champion) Double pink/darker ruffled edges. <b>Crown variegated</b> light-dark green, plain. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Chris' Little Obsession</b> .....	(9116) 04/12/2002 (C. Leppard) Semidouble-double white pansy. Light-medium green, heart-shaped, quilted. <b>Miniature</b>
<b>Coral Dreams</b> .....	(9091) 01/12/2002 (D. Thompson) Single dark coral sticktite pansy/white ruffled edge. Medium green, pointed, quilted, scalloped. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Coral Sea</b> .....	(K. Stork) Double dark coral ruffled large. Dark green, wavy. <b>Large</b>
<b>Crowning Glory</b> .....	(E. Champion) Double bright pink ruffled. <b>Crown variegated</b> light-dark green and pink, plain. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Debon's Christmas Morning</b> .....	(9071) 10/09/2001 (N. Braun) Single-semidouble bright pink ruffled star/coral overlay, wide fuchsia edge. <b>Crown variegated</b> dark green, pink and cream, scalloped/red back. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Debon's Frilly Lilly</b> .....	(9072) 10/09/2001 (N. Braun) Double medium pink pansy/white frilled edge. <b>Crown variegated</b> green and cream, serrated. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Elizabethan Ruffle</b> .....	(9068) 08/08/2001 (N. Platnick) Single lavender two-tone ruffled pansy. Dark green, longifolia, ruffled/red back. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Exotic Star</b> .....	(9092) 01/12/2002 (D. Thompson) Single chimera white sticktite frilled star/purple stripe. Medium green, plain, quilted, wavy, scalloped. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Flying North*</b> .....	(9140) 7/17/02 (D. Harrington) Single-semidouble pink two-tone ruffled pansy/variable white-green edge. <b>Variegated</b> dark green, cream and pink, heart-shaped, quilted, glossy, ruffled, wavy/red back. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Flying Saucer</b> .....	(E. Champion) Double light blue/lighter ruffled edge. <b>Crown variegated</b> light-dark green, plain. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Fuchsia Lace*</b> .....	(9048) 06/13/2001 (G. Gay) Single-semidouble white ruffled pansy/variable fuchsia edge. <b>Variegated</b> medium green, white and pink, plain, ruffled. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Green Dragon*</b> .....	(9119) 04/20/2002 (J. Brownlie) Semidouble-double white star/green edge. <b>Variegated</b> green and white, plain, pointed. <b>Semiminiature</b>
<b>Guelph's Christmas</b> .....	(9120) 04/20/2002 (J. Brownlie/Guelph University) Semidouble-double fuchsia large frilled star/thin white-green edge. Medium green, quilted, glossy, wavy, serrated/red back. <b>Large</b>
<b>Guelph's Dynamite</b> .....	(9121) 04/20/2002 (J. Brownlie/Guelph University) Semidouble-double pink ruffled star/variable fuchsia fantasy markings; thin white-green edge. Light green, quilted, glossy, wavy, serrated. <b>Large</b>
<b>Imperial Lace</b> .....	(9069) 09/08/2001 (G. Gay) Single-semidouble white sticktite ruffled pansy/variable red-purple eye, edge. <b>Variegated</b> dark green, white and pink, plain, ruffled. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Kiss Prints</b> .....	(K. Stork) Single-semidouble white pansy/variable coral patches. Light-medium green, plain. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Lady Guinevere</b> .....	(G.T. Smith) Semidouble white ruffled pansy/light purple eye, thin light purple-green edge. Medium green, quilted, serrated. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Lilian in Lace</b> .....	(E. Champion) Double pink frilled. <b>Mosaic variegated</b> medium green and white, ruffled. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Lilian Sparkler*</b> .....	(E. Champion) Semidouble light pink/darker fantasy edge. <b>Mosaic variegated</b> dark green and pink, plain. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Lucile Roske*</b> .....	(9141) 7/17/02 (D. Harrington) Single red-purple pansy/green ruffled edge. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted, scalloped. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Ma's Country Girl</b> .....	(9130) 05/31/2002 (O. Robinson) Double blush white to light pink star/blue fantasy. <b>Variegated</b> medium green and white, plain, quilted. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Ma's Frog Land</b> .....	(9131) 05/31/2002 (O. Robinson) Semidouble white star/green edge. <b>Variegated</b> light-medium green and white, pointed. <b>Standard</b>

<b>Ma's Melody Girl</b> .....	(9132) 05/31/2002 (O. Robinson) Semidouble coral star/raspberry fantasy, band; thin white-green edge. Dark green, quilted girl foliage. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Ma's Pillow Talk</b> .....	(9133) 05/31/2002 (O. Robinson) Double white frilled pansy. <b>Variegated</b> light-medium green and cream, serrated. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Ma's Second Thoughts</b> .....	(9134) 05/31/2002 (O. Robinson) Semidouble dark pink pansy/white edge. <b>Variegated</b> medium green and white, quilted, serrated. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Ma's Silk Flower</b> .....	(9135) 05/31/2002 (O. Robinson) Semidouble light lavender-pink pansy. <b>Variegated</b> light-medium green and cream, plain. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Ma's Silver Dream</b> .....	(9136) 05/31/2002 (O. Robinson) Semidouble white/variable blue eye, green edge. <b>Variegated</b> medium green and white, quilted, wavy, serrated. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Ness' Puppy Glow</b> .....	(D. Ness) Single-semidouble mauve star/wide raspberry edge. Medium green, heart-shaped, scalloped/red back. <b>Semiminiature</b>
<b>Ness' Red Mood</b> .....	(D. Ness) Semidouble-double dark red pansy. Dark green, glossy, scalloped/red back. <b>Semiminiature</b>
<b>Nightlight</b> .....	(E. Champion) Double purple/pink fantasy. <b>Crown variegated</b> light-dark green, plain. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Optimara Chico</b> .....	(9122) 05/29/2002 (R. Holtkamp) Single white sticktite pansy/wide blue ruffled edge. Medium green, plain, glossy, hairy, scalloped. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Optimara EverGrace</b> .....	(9123) 05/29/2002 (R. Holtkamp) Single white sticktite frilled pansy/variable medium blue eye, band; light green edge. Medium green, heart-shaped, glossy, hairy, wavy, scalloped. <b>Large</b>
<b>Optimara EverHarmony</b> .....	(9124) 05/29/2002 (R. Holtkamp) Single white to pale pink sticktite frilled pansy/variable darker eye, band; light green edge. Medium green, plain, glossy, hairy, wavy, scalloped. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Optimara EverLove</b> .....	(9125) 05/29/2002 (R. Holtkamp) Single purple-red sticktite frilled/wide white to light pink band, light green edge. Dark green, heart-shaped, glossy, hairy, wavy, scalloped/red back. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Optimara EverPraise</b> .....	(9126) 05/29/2002 (R. Holtkamp) Single medium blue sticktite pansy/light green frilled edge. Medium green, heart-shaped, glossy, hairy, wavy, scalloped. <b>Large</b>
<b>Optimara Little Mohawk*</b> ...	(Holtkamp) Single blue/white edge. Medium green. <b>Semiminiature</b>
<b>Patchwork</b> .....	(9093) 01/12/2002 (D. Thompson) Semidouble white ruffled star/blue patches. Medium green, plain, quilted, scalloped. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Peek-a-boo Lace*</b> .....	(9052) 06/13/2001 (G. Gay) Single-semidouble dark purple sticktite ruffled pansy/variable white fantasy. <b>Variegated</b> dark green, white and pink, plain, ruffled. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Prairie Blue Moon</b> .....	(9107) 03/06/2002 (L. Stickney) Single medium blue frilled pansy/lighter edge. Medium green, plain, quilted. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Prairie Christmas Spirit</b> .....	(9108) 03/06/2002 (L. Stickney) Semidouble dark red pansy/lighter edge. Dark green, quilted/red back. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Prairie Circus Clown</b> .....	(9109) 03/06/2002 (L. Stickney) Double medium pink pansy/wide white edge. Dark green, plain/red back. <b>Semiminiature</b>
<b>Prairie Harvest Sunset</b> .....	(9110) 03/06/2002 (L. Stickney) Single medium coral frilled pansy. Medium green, plain. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Prairie Lady</b> .....	(9094) 01/22/2002 (L. Stickney) Double medium pink pansy. Light green girl foliage. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Prairie Moonbeam</b> .....	(9095) 01/22/2002 (L. Stickney) Single white pansy/variable blue-flecked eye. Medium green, plain. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Prairie Patchwork Quilt</b> .....	(9111) 03/06/2002 (L. Stickney) Single white large pansy/purple ruffled edge. Medium green, plain. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Prairie Pixie</b> .....	(9096) 01/22/2002 (L. Stickney) Semidouble light pink star/lavender shading. Medium green, quilted. <b>Semiminiature trailer</b>
<b>Prairie Sinkhole</b> .....	(9098) 01/22/2002 (L. Stickney) Single medium blue cupped. Medium green, plain. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Prairie Song</b> .....	(9097) 01/22/2002 (L. Stickney) Semidouble medium pink ruffled pansy/darker eye. Dark green, plain. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Prairie Spring Awakening</b> ...	(9112) 03/06/2002 (L. Stickney) Single lavender pansy/purple sparkle edge. Medium green, plain/red back. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Prairie Starlight</b> .....	(9099) 01/22/2002 (L. Stickney) Semidouble white ruffled pansy. Medium green, plain. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Prairie Summer Frolic</b> .....	(9113) 03/06/2002 (L. Stickney) Single white ruffled pansy/purple markings. Medium green, quilted. <b>Standard</b>

- Prairie Wagon Wheel** ..... (9100) 01/22/2002 (L. Stickney) Single white ruffled pansy/medium blue eye, edge. Dark green, plain. **Standard**
- Prairie Winemaker** ..... (9114) 03/14/2002 (L. Stickney) Single dark wine ruffled pansy. Dark green, ovate, serrated/red back. **Small standard**
- Raspberries 'n' Cream** ..... (G.T. Smith) Semidouble raspberry-red ruffled pansy. **Variegated** dark green, white and cream, plain. **Standard**
- Rebel's Amy** ..... (R. Bann) Single-semidouble pink pansy/purple fantasy. Dark green, quilted, glossy, scalloped girl foliage. **Semiminature**
- Rebel's Blueberry Ice** ..... (R. Bann) Semidouble-double dark blue frilled pansy. **Variegated** dark green and cream, plain, glossy/red back. **Standard**
- Rebel's Bright Dawning** ..... (9077) 12/03/2001 (R. Bann) Semidouble-double pink large ruffled star/darker edge. **Variegated** dark green and cream, plain, quilted, glossy/red back. **Standard**
- Rebel's Candy Ribbons** ..... (R. Bann) Semidouble pink two-tone large fluted star/darker band, white edge. **Variegated** dark green, ivory and rose, plain, quilted, glossy/red back. **Standard**
- Rebel's Corabella** ..... (9137) 7/5/02 (R. Bann) Semidouble-double medium blue large ruffled pansy/variable green edge on top petals. Medium green, plain, quilted, glossy. **Large**
- Rebel's Coral Jewel** ..... (R. Bann) Semidouble-double pink large ruffled star. **Variegated** dark green and cream, ovate, quilted, glossy/red back. **Standard**
- Rebel's Dahlonaga** ..... (9078) 12/03/2001 (R. Bann) Single-semidouble pink large ruffled pansy/red-spattered band, white edge. **Variegated** dark green and beige, plain, quilted, glossy/red back. **Standard**
- Rebel's Flashy Butterfly** ..... (9079) 12/03/2001 (R. Bann) Single-semidouble pink large pansy/cerise fantasy band, thin white edge. **Variegated** dark green and cream, heart-shaped, quilted, glossy/red back. **Large**
- Rebel's Glory Be** ..... (9138) 7/5/02 (R. Bann) Semidouble-double pink large ruffled star/purple fantasy. **Variegated** dark green and beige, pointed, quilted, serrated. **Standard**
- Rebel's Kelsey Taylor** ..... (R. Bann) Single-semidouble pale pink star/thin white edge. **Variegated** dark green and white, plain, quilted, glossy/red back. **Standard**
- Rebel's Kidopink** ..... (9080) 12/03/2001 (R. Bann) Semidouble pink large ruffled pansy/darker edge. **Variegated** medium green and beige, pointed, quilted, glossy/red back. **Standard**
- Rebel's Ky-Oh** ..... (9081) 12/03/2001 (R. Bann) Semidouble pink large frilled star/red sparkle overlay. **Variegated** medium green, tan and pink, plain, quilted, glossy/red back. **Standard**
- Rebel's Likewise** ..... (R. Bann) Single-semidouble pink two-tone pansy/white edge. **Variegated** dark green and ivory, pointed, glossy. **Standard**
- Rebel's Lollipop Spinner** ..... (R. Bann) Single-semidouble chimera pink/fuchsia stripe, ruffled white edge. Medium green, ovate, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. **Small standard**
- Rebel's Maria'** ..... (9082) 12/03/2001 (R. Bann) Semidouble-double pink two-tone large ruffled pansy. **Variegated** dark green and beige, plain, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. **Standard**
- Rebel's Meg** ..... (9139) 7/5/02 (R. Bann) Single-semidouble light pink two-tone pansy/cerise-streaked eye. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted, glossy girl foliage. **Semiminature**
- Rebel's Merry Christmas** ..... (R. Bann) Single-semidouble bright pink star/fuchsia overlay, lightly ruffled edge. Dark green, heart-shaped, quilted, glossy, ruffled, wavy/red back. **Standard**
- Rebel's October Breeze** ..... (R. Bann) Double medium blue ruffled pansy/variable white edge. **Variegated** dark green, cream and pink, ovate, quilted. **Standard**
- Rebel's Peppermint** ..... (9083) 12/03/2001 (R. Bann) Semidouble pink large ruffled pansy/cerise band, thin white edge. **Variegated** medium green and white, heart-shaped, quilted, glossy. **Standard**
- Rebel's Restless Heart** ..... (9084) 12/03/2001 (R. Bann) Double red-violet two-tone large ruffled star. **Variegated** medium green and ivory, plain, quilted, glossy, serrated/red back. **Standard**
- Rebel's Rose Bud** ..... (R. Bann) Double light pink two-tone star/ruffled fuchsia edge. **Variegated** dark green and cream, pointed, quilted/red back. **Standard**
- Rebel's Scotty** ..... (R. Bann) Double magenta two-tone large ruffled star. **Variegated** dark green, beige and rose, plain, quilted, glossy/red back. **Large**
- Rebel's Star Song** ..... (R. Bann) Semidouble white frilled star. Medium green, cupped, quilted, glossy, serrated. **Standard**
- Rebel's Strawberry Bites** ..... (9085) 12/03/2001 (R. Bann) Semidouble bright pink two-tone large star/white ruffled edge. Dark green, spooned, quilted, glossy, scalloped/red back. **Standard**

<b>Rebel's Teddy Bear</b> .....	(9086) 12/03/2001 (R. Bann) Semidouble mauve star/darker-tipped top petals. <b>Variegated</b> dark green and beige, plain, quilted, glossy/red back. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Rebel's Thunder God</b> .....	(R. Bann) Single dark blue sticktite fluted star, <b>Variegated</b> dark green and ivory, pointed, glossy/red back. <b>Large</b>
<b>Rebel's Wild Wings</b> .....	(R. Bann) Single-semidouble purple pansy/variable pink fantasy; white edge. <b>Variegated</b> medium green and cream, heart-shaped, glossy. <b>Large</b>
<b>Ro's Vintage Velvet</b> .....	(9115) 04/08/2002 (R. Regoni) Semidouble vivid violet-red pansy/white ruffled edge. Medium green, quilted. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Rob's Cookie Crumble</b> .....	(9087) 01/02/2002 (F. Wagman/R. Robinson) Single chimera white sticktite pansy/dark blue stripe. Dark green, plain. <b>Semiminature</b>
<b>Rob's Mango Mongo</b> .....	(9127) 05/31/2002 (R. Robinson) Semidouble coral-pink large star/ivory eye. <b>Crown variegated</b> medium-dark green, white and beige, quilted/red back. <b>Semiminature</b>
<b>Rob's Simply Susan</b> .....	(9128) 05/31/2002 (R. Robinson) Double dark pink large star/wide white edge. <b>Variegated</b> medium-dark green, round/red back. <b>Miniature</b>
<b>Rob's Squeeze Toy</b> .....	(9129) 05/31/2002 (R. Robinson) Semidouble dark coral-pink. <b>Crown variegated</b> dark green, white, pink and beige/red back. <b>Miniature</b>
<b>Rose Bouquet*</b> .....	(9028) 04/12/2001 (G.T. Smith) Double pink frilled star/darker eye. <b>Mosaic variegated</b> medium green, pink and white, plain, quilted. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Sam's Cerise</b> .....	(S. Wavrunek) Semidouble white ruffled pansy/variable cerise edge. Light green, quilted, serrated. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Shades of Blush</b> .....	(G.T. Smith) Semidouble pink frilled pansy/darker eye. <b>Variegated</b> dark green, pink and white, plain. <b>Standard</b>
<b>She's in Love</b> .....	(K. Stork) Single-semidouble pink pansy/raspberry-sparkled ruffled edge. Dark green, plain. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Shoshone</b> .....	(K. Stork) Double red/thin white edge. Dark green, scalloped/red back. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Silverglade Antiques</b> .....	(S. Harrison) Single pale pink frilled/wine streaks. Dark green, wavy. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Silverglade Apples</b> .....	(S. Harrison) Semidouble white/green frilled edge. Medium green, quilted, serrated. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Silverglade Bangles</b> .....	(S. Harrison) Double white frilled/variable fuchsia patches. Medium green, quilted. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Silverglade Baubles</b> .....	(S. Harrison) Single-semidouble white and lavender frilled/white eye. Medium green, quilted. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Silverglade Belles</b> .....	(S. Harrison) Double lilac-pink/orchid edge. Medium green, quilted. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Silverglade Blushes</b> .....	(S. Harrison) Single cerise/white-streaked edge. Dark green, quilted. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Silverglade Buckles</b> .....	(S. Harrison) Single-semidouble bright blue frilled/wide white stripe. Medium green, pointed. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Silverglade Castanets</b> .....	(S. Harrison) Single-semidouble dark pink/dark wine edge. Medium green, quilted. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Silverglade Chariots</b> .....	(S. Harrison) Double medium pink two-tone/bronze-green frilled edge. Medium green, quilted, wavy. <b>Large</b>
<b>Silverglade Cherubs</b> .....	(S. Harrison) Double pink and white frilled/darker pink and green edge. Medium green, quilted, wavy. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Silverglade Chimes</b> .....	(S. Harrison) Single lavender frilled pansy/darker eye, top petals; green edge. Medium green, quilted. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Silverglade Delights</b> .....	(S. Harrison) Single-semidouble white frilled/crimson streaks. Dark green, pointed. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Silverglade Dreams</b> .....	(S. Harrison) Double light-medium pink large/darker eye, edge. Medium green, quilted, serrated. <b>Large</b>
<b>Silverglade Fanfares</b> .....	(S. Harrison) Single orchid-pink star/wide white band. Medium green, quilted. <b>Large</b>
<b>Silverglade Fiestas</b> .....	(9103) 02/26/2002 (S. Harrison) Single raspberry sparkle/dark orchid band. Dark green, plain. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Silverglade Flares</b> .....	(S. Harrison) Semidouble dark pink/mauve frilled edge. Medium green, quilted. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Silverglade Flashes</b> .....	(S. Harrison) Semidouble-double dark blue/variable white streaks. Dark green, heart-shaped. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Silverglade Flirts</b> .....	(S. Harrison) Double orchid frilled/variable white eye. Medium green, heart-shaped. <b>Standard</b>



- Silverglade Flutes** ..... (S. Harrison) Semidouble-double white/orchid patches on lower petals. Medium green, serrated. **Standard**
- Silverglade Gems** ..... (S. Harrison) Single white cupped/lavender-purple patches. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**
- Silverglade Gowns** ..... (S. Harrison) Semidouble lilac large/orchid band, thin white edge. Dark green, quilted. **Large**
- Silverglade Jingles** ..... (S. Harrison) Single-semidouble pink sparkle/dark raspberry frilled edge. Medium green, quilted. **Large**
- Silverglade Laces** ..... (9104) 02/26/2002 (S. Harrison) Single-semidouble white frilled/light orchid tips. Medium green. **Standard**
- Silverglade Lilacs** ..... (S. Harrison) Single-semidouble white frilled/lilac eye; variable lilac edge. Medium green, plain. **Standard**
- Silverglade Lollipops** ..... (S. Harrison) Single medium pink sparkled large/darker eye, white edge. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**
- Silverglade Meadows** ..... (9105) 02/26/2002 (S. Harrison) Double medium pink frilled/wide white-green edge. Dark green, quilted, serrated/red back. **Standard**
- Silverglade Memories** ..... (S. Harrison) Single-semidouble orchid frilled/darker eye, white edge. Dark green, quilted, serrated. **Standard**
- Silverglade Moons** ..... (S. Harrison) Single white star/pink patches. Dark green, quilted. **Standard**
- Silverglade Muffs** ..... (S. Harrison) Single purple and white pansy. **Mosaic variegated** medium green and white. **Standard**
- Silverglade Oysters** ..... (S. Harrison) Double pale pink/pale green ruffled edge. Medium green, quilted. **Large**
- Silverglade Queens** ..... (S. Harrison) Single dark purple large cupped star. Dark green, serrated. **Standard**
- Silverglade Raffles** ..... (S. Harrison) Double orchid two-tone/green frilled edge. Dark green, wavy. **Standard**
- Silverglade Ribbons** ..... (S. Harrison) Semidouble white frilled large/variable orchid-mauve patches. Medium green, round, quilted. **Standard**
- Silverglade Ripples** ..... (S. Harrison) Single purple and white streaked frilled star. Medium green, pointed. **Standard**
- Silverglade Rumples** ..... (S. Harrison) Semidouble-double orchid and mauve frilled. Dark green, quilted. **Large**
- Silverglade Seasons** ..... (S. Harrison) Single-semidouble medium blue and white. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**
- Silverglade Secrets** ..... (S. Harrison) Semidouble lilac-pink two-tone/white frilled edge. Dark green, serrated, wavy. **Standard**
- Silverglade Silks** ..... (S. Harrison) Double light pink frilled large. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**
- Silverglade Sparkles** ..... (S. Harrison) Semidouble dark pink/raspberry sparkle band, white edge. Medium green, quilted. **Large**
- Silverglade Spells** ..... (S. Harrison) Double pink two-tone/white-green frilled edge. Medium green, quilted. **Large**
- Silverglade Sprays** ..... (S. Harrison) Semidouble mauve large/white eye. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**
- Silverglade Streams** ..... (9106) 02/26/2002 (S. Harrison) Semidouble cream/pink veins, green edge. Medium green, plain, quilted. **Standard**
- Silverglade Swans** ..... (S. Harrison) Double pink and white large/green ruffled edge. Dark green, serrated. **Large**
- Silverglade Tales** ..... (S. Harrison) Semidouble white fluted star/mauve-purple patches. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**
- Silverglade Treasures** ..... (S. Harrison) Semidouble orchid frilled large/raspberry band, white edge. Dark green, round. **Standard**
- Silverglade Treats** ..... (S. Harrison) Semidouble-double lavender-blue and white pansy. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**
- Silverglade Trifles** ..... (S. Harrison) Double white and mauve/purple tips. Medium green, quilted. **Large**
- Silverglade Trinkets** ..... (S. Harrison) Double white and blue. Medium green, serrated. **Standard**
- Silverglade Truffles** ..... (S. Harrison) Semidouble two-tone orchid/green ruffled edge. Dark green, quilted, wavy. **Standard**
- Silverglade Twins** ..... (S. Harrison) Double magenta/darker streaks, thin white edge. Medium green, quilted. **Large**
- Silverglade Ways** ..... (S. Harrison) Single-semidouble lavender-cerise. Dark green, quilted, glossy. **Standard**
- Silverglade Wheels** ..... (S. Harrison) Single white/orchid-mauve patches. Medium green, rounded. **Standard**
- Silverglade Wishes** ..... (S. Harrison) Double pink/wine ruffled edge. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**
- Sonoma Amethyst Crystal** .. (B. Borck) Single-semidouble dark amethyst sparkle large star/darker streaks, variable pink spots. Dark green, quilted, serrated. **Standard**

<b>Sonoma Downing's Delight</b> ..	(B. Borck) Semidouble chimera white pansy/pink stripe, blue fantasy. Medium green. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Sonoma Hocus Pocus</b> .....	(B. Borck) Semidouble medium blue star/darker streaks, pink spots. Dark green, quilted, serrated. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Sonoma Intrigued</b> .....	(B. Borck) Semidouble blue-violet star/darker violet fantasy, coral spots; variable white and dark coral streaks, white edge. Dark green, quilted, serrated. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Sonoma Mystique</b> .....	(B. Borck) Semidouble dark blue large star/darker streaks, coral-pink spots. Dark green, quilted, serrated. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Sonoma Penelope</b> .....	(B. Borck) Semidouble-double amethyst large star/white and pink spots, variable darker amethyst streaks. Dark green, quilted, serrated. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Sonoma Posidian Night</b> .....	(B. Borck) Semidouble dark blue star/darker fantasy. Dark green, quilted, serrated. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Sonoma Saturn Skies</b> .....	(B. Borck) Double plum star/coral fantasy. Dark green, quilted, serrated. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Sonoma Sulcated Salmon</b> ...	(B. Borck) Single salmon-peach large star/darker fantasy. Dark green, quilted, serrated. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Sonoma Think Pink</b> .....	(B. Borck) Semidouble vivid pink large star/darker fantasy. Dark green, quilted, serrated. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Sonoma Volcanic</b> .....	(B. Borck) Single-semidouble dark coral-red sparkle large star/darker fantasy. Dark green, quilted, serrated. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Sonoma Watercolor Melon</b> ..	(B. Borck) Semidouble coral-peach sparkle large star/darker veining. Dark green, quilted, serrated. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Sonoma Which Half</b> .....	(B. Borck) Single-semidouble dark blue-purple large star/vivid coral spots. Dark green, quilted, serrated. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Sora Addison Rose</b> .....	(9101) 01/31/2002 (B. Werness) Single-semidouble dark pink two-tone large star/raspberry band, thin white edge. Dark green, round/red back. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Sora Annalise</b> .....	(B. Werness) Semidouble pink two-tone frilled pansy. Dark green, heart-shaped/red back. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Sora Blueberry Sherbet</b> .....	(B. Werness) Semidouble light blue pansy/variable thin white edge. <b>Variegated</b> dark green and cream/red back. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Sora Christine</b> .....	(9088) 01/09/2002 (B. Werness) Semidouble-double orchid large star. <b>Variegated</b> dark green, pink and cream, serrated/red back. <b>Large</b>
<b>Sora Fuzzy Face</b> .....	(9102) 01/31/2002 (B. Werness/R. Bann) Double lavender two-tone pansy/green markings. <b>Variegated</b> medium green and white, pointed, quilted, glossy. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Sora Munchie</b> .....	(9089) 01/09/2002 (B. Werness) Semidouble fuchsia frilled pansy/darker top petals, white edge. Dark green, heart-shaped, glossy/red back. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Sora Patty Ann</b> .....	(9090) 01/09/2002 (B. Werness) Semidouble chimera bright pink pansy/white stripe, purple fantasy. Medium green, plain. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Sora Pink Clouds</b> .....	(B. Werness) Semidouble chimera bright pink pansy/wide white stripe. Medium green, plain. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Sora School Time</b> .....	(B. Werness) Double dark blue pansy/white edge. <b>Variegated</b> dark green, white and pink. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Strawberry Sundae*</b> .....	(9029) 04/12/2001 (G.T. Smith) Semidouble hot pink frilled pansy/darker eye. <b>Variegated</b> light to dark green and cream, plain, scalloped. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Sweet Serenity</b> .....	(G.T. Smith) Double pale pink frilled/darker blush. <b>Variegated</b> dark green and white, plain, quilted. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Swirling Waters</b> .....	(E. Champion) Double medium blue large ruffled. <b>Crown variegated</b> light-dark green, plain. <b>Standard</b>
<b>The White Rabbit</b> .....	(C. Leppard) Double ivory-white large ruffled star. Medium green, plain, quilted, pebbled, hairy/red back. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Tipped Off</b> .....	(G.T. Smith) Semidouble pink two-tone star/magenta tips. Dark green, plain, quilted. <b>Standard</b>
<b>Too Darn Hot</b> .....	(K. Stork) Single-semidouble rose-coral/cranberry sparkle edge. Medium green, glossy. <b>Standard</b>
<b>United We Stand</b> .....	(9070) 09/29/2001 (L. Stickney) Semidouble-double purple star. Medium green, plain. <b>Standard</b>



*Photo Credit: Wayne Watts*

## *Sinningia 'Merry Christmas'*

*Grown by: Wayne Watts*

# It's All About Sharing

by Hal McKain, Ph.D.

A kind, elderly lady asked if I could answer a question that would help her with an annoying problem she was having with her African violets. She was one of the forty members of a breakfast club that had asked me to make a presentation at an early morning meeting. They had just bought my wife, Rozie, and I breakfast, so I was hoping I could help them grow better African violets.

First, I felt that I had better establish some credentials because I knew that some of these retired couples had African violets that had belonged to their grandparents. I wasn't too sure that everything I would suggest might get shot down with a better suggestion and a frown. So, I told them that at home I have over 400 African violets, (fifty different hybrids). I have given away over 1500 in the last eight years, have never sold one, and I'm a member of the African Violet Society of America. Their pleasant reaction appeared to me to express respect so this gave me enough confidence to proceed.

The lady's question was, "What do I do when I get long necks on my African violets?"

I proceeded to tell them that many, many people needlessly let this problem develop with their violets. Repot your violets at least once a year. This will prevent necks from even starting. By putting a would-be neck below the surface, it can become part of the solution by becoming a part of the root system. First, carefully skin any neck that is visible - carefully, like you would a carrot. Also, if there are any leaf or flower stems that you can cut off to prune your plant, do so. These places will grow roots as well as the skinned area does on the neck. A good soil mix that has worked well for me for growing roots is 3/4 vermiculite, 1/4 sphagnum peat moss, and a dash of charcoal. This area on the top of the pot will need to be kept moist by lightly watering from the top every few days. A light dose of 10-10-10 fertilizer in the water will encourage growth of the top roots. The lower roots will need to be nourished by watering weekly from the bottom with 15-30-15 fertilizer. It will take about a month to get the new roots growing well. Then, continue the regular watering procedure from the bottom once a week. Once in a while, use 10-60-10. I explained that following this procedure can help keep their grandparents' African violets healthy and beautiful for another year.

Most of the members were concerned about their violets developing more than one crown. To demonstrate I picked up a plant that I had brought with me. It was about eleven months old. I showed them where new leaves were beginning to grow out of the side of the crown. I also showed them where a couple of even smaller leaves were also growing outward from the other side. I made it clear to the people that the bigger leaves had to be taken off but that the other two smaller ones were the beginnings of a bud and must be left

alone. New leaves are only welcome when they come up from the center! It appears that there are not many folks that feel comfortable removing the suckers. Sometimes I am so hesitant that I have to use my left hand to force my right hand to pluck the suckers off.

The last major point that I wanted to make to this club was to help them feel comfortable about taking charge of their plant. I have seen many older plants that people just let do anything and go anywhere. I have had several plants that I had given away brought back with as many as six big crowns "squeezing" out of one pot. I cut this back until there was only one small crown left with about six small leaves and a few roots. I followed the before-mentioned procedure. The restructured plant did better than ever before. If fact, I had left a bud on it. The owner said it bloomed in ten days. (Reader; That's ok, I wouldn't have believed it either! I made her show it to me, and sure enough...) I think that most amateur growers are afraid that if they do any pruning at all, they might kill the plant.

I picked up another one of my plants that was about a year old. It had several beautiful blooms on it and several new buds. This is one of the indicators of a healthy plant. However, it also had one long leaf that came too far out of the pot. It did not look in balance with the rest of the plant. I held up the violet for everyone to see, took a pair of scissors, and cut off the long stem back near the neck.

One of the ladies gasped. I wondered what was wrong. In a serious tone and with a shocked countenance she said, "That hurt, how would you feel...?" I momentarily was at a loss for words. Then I realized why some people were having such a hard time pruning their plants. They are really sensitive about their living, feeling plants. I proceeded to tell them to cover the cut spot on the neck with potting soil and keep it moist to get it to root. The thought that I expressed that was the most helpful to this lady was, "I will tenderly care for this cut-off leaf. I will have it root, place it in a small growing, clear plastic cup, repot it in about five months, and for you in one year I will have another beautifully blooming plant very similar to this one." This caused her to smile!

I immediately knew that in the future, I needed to exhibit even more tenderness to my plants. Each one is precious and if I "listen," each one will tell me what it feels it needs to help reach its fullness. The violet must be happier with me than without me!

When I give away a blooming African violet, I include directions on how to take care of it and a 2-qt. bottle of fertilized (15-30-15) water. This will help give the plant a fair start and the owner an immediate edge-up. There will be a sense of  
*(continued on bottom of page 35)*



**Barbara Elkin**  
*Vintage Violets Committee*  
2855 Gayle Lane  
Auburn, CA 95602-9674  
email: [bjabar@earthlink.net](mailto:bjabar@earthlink.net)

## SOFT SELL?

A few years ago, the grouchy ole' man I'm married to came home with a miniature donkey. We live in the country, but we also have neighbors. When this donkey brays, he can be heard at least a half mile away. Once a year we give a barbeque for our understanding neighbors.

Maybe you can let your neighbors know you have African violets. You don't have to bray or give a barbeque, just let them know you grow them. It's not hard; violets are so beautiful, and everyone wants them. Most of my neighbors are now "Growers".

Use more enthusiasm. Get out there and hustle for our violets. While you're at it, sell them a subscription to the African Violet Magazine. They'll love it.

While at the AGGS Convention in New Jersey I received two leaves of 'White Madonna'. What a find!

I received a message from Tina in Washington. She has Blue Wasp, Lisa Louise, Lovely Wasp, and Wedgwood Wasp. All you "Dates" aficionados look at this month's AVSA Most Wanted list. Tina would like to find a source for several of the dates' hybrids.

## AVSA Most Wanted African Violets

Burgundy Wasp  
Butterfly Wasp  
Dates Fanfare  
Dates Jubilee  
Dave Masterson Wasp  
Hood Wink

Krista Lynn  
Lithe Lassie  
Merida Wasp  
Peppermint Frost  
Pink Fingers  
Pink Wasp

Rachel  
Crimson Ice  
Dardevil  
Granger's Eternal Snow  
Jeanmarie  
Optimara Missouri

Optimara New Jersey  
Reed's Pink Lemonade  
Tipt  
Ultra Violet Twinkle



*(continued from page 34)*

"I can do it." I personally feel a need for both of them to succeed!

The breakfast club seemed to really appreciate my humble attempt to help them. Anyway, I have been asked to make a presentation to two more groups in the small town of Lamoni, IA. I am very proud of the opportunities to share with them what I have learned. However, I wonder if the fact that after each presentation I give away six beautifully blooming African violets isn't my real draw?

It sure is a good feeling to be able to put into practice the

ideas I have read in The African Violet Magazine. For me it is a healthy, happy challenge to seek to continue to improve techniques and procedures. It is especially a good feeling to see the satisfaction in the eyes of those who are seeking to become better African violet caretakers!

I take the time to water each plant in my hand. I think that this indicates my desire to be attentive to helpful details. And, the thought of my carbon dioxide (CO2) actually going into the plant fascinates me. It causes me to feel that I am a real part of each gift.



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

## *Ness' Orange Pekoe*

*Exhibited by: Libby Behnke*

*Hybridized by: D. Ness*

*Large*



*Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky*

## ***Delightful***

*Exhibited by: Gertrud Schneider*

*2002 AVS of Canada National Show*

*Hybridized by: J. Swift*

*Standard*

# STREPTOCARPUS

by Jonathan Ford

## The Ideal Flowering Houseplant

I have worked mostly with the 'nymph' type, which are a smaller flower, not going for the larger 'Weismoor' type. You get a better show if you have more flowers coming, one after the other. These nymph types tend to have more flowers per stem than the Weismoor varieties. One of the species, *S. johannis* (white), was also used in hybridizing to reduce the size.

If you are not growing under lights, give your streps all the indirect or filtered light you can. Water it one day before it wilts and keep it cooler than 85°F. In a greenhouse culture, give them all the light you can, short of burning the leaves. When too hot, the plants will wilt and flowers will collapse. Fortunately, they perk up when they get cooler evening temperatures. *Streptocarpus* are not damaged by temperatures as low as 45°F. Streps require a bit more light than the African violet to flower. They flower year-round when grown under two tubes of fluorescent light, for 14-15 hours per day. Excessive light with high temperature will cause leaf scorch or burn. We grow in a greenhouse (a converted chicken house), 55' x 24' which is usually 50-70% humidity. From the 15th of April to October, we use a 70% shade.

If you are growing on light stands, watch out for the hot ballast on fixtures below the shelf. This can cause excessive bottom heating of the *Streptocarpus*.

Plants should be grown on the dry side. They always recover from a drought, but seldom from a drowning. Never allow them to stand in water. I have not found wicking to be a good system for *Streptocarpus*. Cold water will mark the leaves during high light periods, but there is no problem watering overhead when the water is near air temperature.

The potting media must drain well, be moist, not wet to avoid crown rot. Any pot plant mix being used for fibrous-rooted plants will be suitable for *Streptocarpus*. We use Pro-mix BX. You could even add extra vermiculite. The *Streptocarpus* like a neutral soil, so you could also add lime to control the acidity. Successful plants have been grown in various light mixes.

The *Streptocarpus* are light feeders. A diluted water soluble fertilizer such as 100-150 ppm of Peters 20-19-18 Peatlight Special every week is sufficient. If given enough

light, *Streptocarpus* will flower with no fertilization at all. However, the plant will lose its color. Too much fertilizer will cause the high salts to creep up the leaf stems until the plant rots off at soil level. To one gallon of water add 1/4 the amount of fertilizer recommended by the manufacturer and use every watering. Once a month flush out accumulated salts with plain water, throwing away drainings.

Plantlets, divisions, or seedlings should be potted in 4" or 5" pots or baskets and a light drench applied with a good fungicide. We use either Banrot or Benlate-Ridomil. Use only shallow pots as *Streptocarpus* are shallow rooted plants. They flower better when a little pot-bound, and we try not to overpot them. *Streptocarpus* start blooming four to six weeks after potting. Pinching out the first flush of buds will produce a much larger plant three to four weeks later.

Different from other Gesneriads, *Streptocarpus* do not attract white fly. Aphids will show up on flower spikes but not on leaves. Scale or mealy bug will feed on the leaves. The plants appear to be immune to the spider mite, but cyclamen mites will destroy the crowns. Most pests will succumb to a total submergence of pot and plant in luke warm dish water. Dunk and let dry. Mites can be controlled with Pentac or Kelthane. Many home growers are concerned with the toxicity of commercial insecticides and fungicides. We suggest that you try either a solution of Ivory dish detergent or Safer's Insecticidal Soap, manufactured by Agro Chemical. An excellent fungicide, algicide, disinfectant, and sanitizer is Physan 20, also sold as Triple Action 20 or Green Shield. This product is used in swimming pools and in surgery. It is very safe and pleasant to use.

*Streptocarpus* are propagated by leaf cuttings, by division, or by seed. Division is the simplest method when you only need a few new plants. Just pull the root ball apart with your hands, making smaller clumps of the original plant. Use a fungicide on the cut areas, being careful not to over water. Old leaves may be trimmed or removed. The removal of old leaves will stimulate new growth.

To use a leaf for propagation, take a good healthy leaf, not an old leaf. Cut out the large center rib so that you have two halves (or smaller wedges if you prefer). Place the halves



and/or wedges cut side down, about 1/4" into pro-mix or vermiculite. We then generally put some sort of plastic dome over the top of the container to provide the needed humidity for the rooting pieces of leaf. Keep the soil (or vermiculite) moist but not overly wet. In a couple of weeks, you will begin to see little babies (plantlets) coming up at each of the main veins. You can also take a leaf end, make a false stem on it, and put it down just as an African violet.

To grow from seed, wait until the long, twisted seed pod turns dry and brown. You can then sow the seeds immediately on top of your soil-less mix. The seeds need good light to germinate. We use plastic shoe boxes with clear lids, or

you can put any clear plastic top over your container, again for the much needed humidity and to prevent the soil from drying out. In three or four weeks, you should have little baby plants coming up! One seed pod will have up to 700 seeds in it! If you use seed from a hybrid, they will all come up differently. Some may seem similar, but they will still have slight differences. If you want to produce more clones to be the same named variety, you must do that by using leaves or division.

*From African Violet and Gesneriad News*



*When we find a seed pod forming on an African violet which we have not hand pollinated, we often suspect that this is a result of an insect (thrips), but this is not always the case as Ronn Nadeau explains below ...*

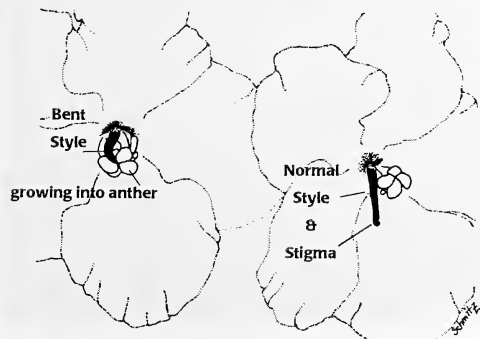
## Saintpaulia Self-Pollination

When most kinds of flowers come to maturity, their pollen becomes exposed upon the surfaces of the anthers and thus becomes readily available for dispersion by wind or insects. Strangely enough, African violet flowers carry their pollen inside the anthers even at flower maturity. For this reason, they do not self-pollinate as readily as do some other flowers, and their pollen is not available for dispersion. Thus, when we grow African violets in our homes, the flowers do not become pollinated and fertilized, and so the flower stems shrivel and die soon after the flowers fade.

In certain cases, however, African violets do undergo self-pollination. Most hobbyists have at one time or another found some of their flowers forming seedpods even though those flowers had not been hand pollinated. If this happened on

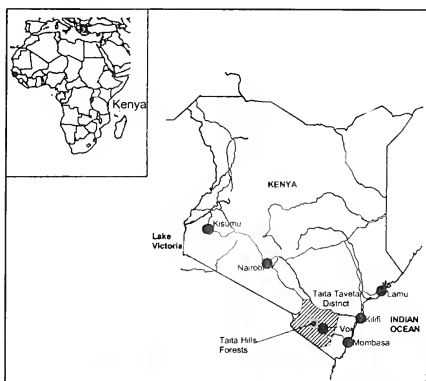
some of your plants, you may have thought that it was due to a bee or other insect loose in your home. 'Spontaneous' self-pollination can occur because of an abnormal mode of flower development in which the stigma actually grows into the anther. The picture shown below helps to illustrate how this happens. This type of self-pollination happens frequently with some cultivars and never with others. Semi-double bloomers, and in particular, certain older Rapsodie® cultivars, are more apt to self-pollinate in this way.

Next time you see a seedpod, which was not caused by human intercession on one of your plants, take a close look at it. You will most likely see that the dried up style is bent and the stigma may be inside the anther.



*The flower on the right has normal style and stigma. The one on the left has a bent style and the stigma has inserted itself into the pollen sac (anther). This results in self-pollination.*

*From African Violet and Gesneriad News*



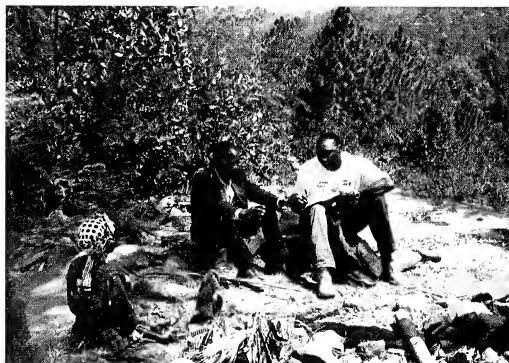
*Fig. 1. Photo credit by Gerry Hertel.*



*Fig. 5. Photo credit by Gerry Hertel.*



*Fig. 4. Photo credit by Thierry Geenen.*



*Fig 2. Photo credit by Gerry Hertel.*



*Fig. 3. Photo credit by Gerry Hertel.*

# The Conservation status of *Saintpaulia teitensis* B. L. Burt (Taita African Violet) in the forests of the Taita Hills, Kenya

## Introduction

The Eastern Arc Mountains of Tanzania and Kenya (Fig 1) contain forests that are recognized as a global biodiversity "hot spot", because of their high species richness, large number of endemic plant and animal species, and threat from human-caused disturbances. There are approximately 800 endemic plants in the Eastern Arc forests, highlighting the importance to conserve these forests. The genus *Saintpaulia*, commonly known as the African violet, is endemic to some of these forests. However, despite the rich biological diversity, the Eastern Arc forests are highly threatened, and forest cover has decreased by 77%. In addition, the forests are highly fragmented and disturbed as a result of human activities.

The forests of the Taita Hills in southeastern Kenya are the smallest and most fragmented ones in the Eastern Arc Mountains. They are jointly managed by the Kenya Forestry Department and the Taita community, who lives around the forest. The Taita people (Fig 2) grow fruits and vegetables along the steep slopes. Individuals typically own parcels of land at different elevations, and thus different rainfall zones, to safeguard the family against crop failure. This has resulted in intense forest clearing and an extremely fragmented pattern of land ownership. Currently, the remaining indigenous forest covers only one-tenth of the area they covered in 1950. It is scattered in twelve fragments totaling approximately 740 acres, and ranging in size from less than 2.5 acres to approximately 490 acres (Mbololo forest).

The Taita African violet *Saintpaulia teitensis* (Fig. 3) is only found in Mbololo forest. In 1988, an intensive botanical survey conducted by the National Museums of Kenya documented the occurrence of only one population of *S. teitensis*. Because of its small population size, the species was designated as "Vulnerable". Fortunately, recent surveys by this author and B. Bytebier (Taita Hills Biodiversity Project) found other small populations of the *S. teitensis* occurring within the same forest. Realizing that there are more populations of *S. teitensis* than previously thought, we conducted a research project with three main objectives. These objectives are: (i) intensively survey Mbololo forest to document other African violet populations (ii) establish permanent forest health monitoring plots in association with an African violet population, and utilize existing forest plots to describe the vegetation associated with violet populations, and (iii) use landsat satellite images to analyze forest cover changes of Mbololo forest over the last twenty years.

## Methods

Fieldwork for this study was conducted in June 2002. We

extensively walked the forest searching for African violet populations. Using 50 meter x 20 meter sampling plots, we collected vegetation data in areas associated with African violet populations as well as other forest areas. We then established a forest health monitoring plot following the procedure used by USDA Forest Service. The USDA Forest Service analyzed forest cover changes using landsat satellite image.

## Results

We recorded eight separate populations of *S. teitensis* in Mbololo forest. However, we believe there may be a few more, hidden on the steep and inaccessible slopes. We documented a total of seventy-four tree species occurring within the sampled plots. Considering the ten most important canopy species, we observed that there was a 60% similarity in species composition between plots with African violets in comparison to the rest of the forest. At sites with African violets, the more common canopy tree species included *Newtonia buchananii*, *Strombosia scheffleri*, *Syzygium sclerophyllum*, *Craibia zimmermannii*, and *Chrysophyllum gorongosanum*. Most of these species are indicative of little disturbed forest. For the rest of the forest, the more common species include *Newtonia buchananii*, *Strombosia scheffleri*, *Macaranga conglomerata*, *Tabernaemontana stapfiana*, and *Albizia gummifera*. Except for *Strombosia scheffleri*, the rest are usually associated with forest disturbance. Human impact in the forest is mainly selective logging, which results in gap clearings that are subsequently colonized by pioneer species. Overall, tree densities in the canopy were higher in African violet plots (326 trees/acre) compared to the rest of the forest at 255 trees/acre.

In the understory, tree species composition was 70% similar between plots with African violets and the rest of the forest. Common species were *Pauridiantha paucinervis*, *Garcinia volkensii*, *Strombosia scheffleri*, and *Psychotria* species. Densities in the understory were essentially similar in the African violet plots and the rest of the forest, with approximately 2,874 trees/acre. It is apparent that human impact is more conspicuous in the canopy tree layer than in the understory layer.

We established one forest health plot in association with an African violet population. The trees in this plot are much healthier as evidenced by lack of damages when compared to trees on forest health plots in more disturbed forests of Taita Hills. Together with another plot to be established in the future, these will provide baseline data for future measurements and forest health trend analysis. These plots will generate essential ecological information necessary for the long-term management and protection of these unique habitats.

Overall, forest cover around Mbololo forest has declined in the past decade. Satellite imagery analysis shows that natural vegetation (bush land in lowlands and closed canopy indigenous forest at higher elevations) declined by approximately 20% between 1988 and 2000. This loss of vegetation cover is mainly in lower elevations that are too dry and hot to support violet growth. These areas were cleared for farming. Interestingly, we observed that some of these areas are now abandoned and slowly reverting back into indigenous forest. While such areas are small, it is encouraging to see that farmland can easily revert into forest if abandoned for a long time.

## Discussion

Forest composition has changed dramatically in the last thirty years. Studies in the early 1970's identified *Ocotea usambarensis* and *Podocarpus* species as dominant species within the Taita Hills forests. Currently, very few trees of these important timber species remain, indicating a major human impact on forest composition. The violets seem highly specialized in terms of habitat requirement, occurring only under misty closed-canopy forest (Fig 4) and on near-vertical, moist rocky cliffs (Fig 5). Considering that logging exposes otherwise sheltered areas to desiccation and high light intensities that are unfavorable to violet growth, there is a need for a better understanding of the environmental requirements of the African violets and impacts of logging on the violets.

The genus *Saintpaulia* has evolved within the Eastern Arc Mountains and has not spread far from its center of evolution. Most species occur highly localized and in small populations. *S. teitensis* is only known from Mbololo forest, where we have now documented at least eight populations. In order to develop an efficient and effective species conservation management plan, there is an urgent need to establish whether these are genetically distinct populations or one single population that occurs in a fragmented manner. In addition, detailed pollination studies are needed to ensure the long-term survival of these plants in their natural habitat.

Local communities have long understood the importance of conserving the forests and applied traditional forest management strategies well before British colonization in the late 1880's. They have traditionally utilized Mbololo forest as a source of construction poles, firewood, medicinal plants (both for humans and animals), and for cultural rituals such as rainmaking and burials. However, the human population has increased substantially around these forests. Thus, the personal land holdings have become smaller, forcing the residents to clear more of the forest to create farms. This in itself is a major long-term threat to the African violets.

While most of the African violet populations in Mbololo are currently not under any eminent threat, some of the populations close to the forest boundary are at a higher risk of destruction due to human encroachment. A clearly demarcated forest boundary is lacking in some areas, which may confuse the local people as to where the protected area starts and lead to forest encroachment.

Currently the Taita Hills forests are under the management of the Forest Department. However, in a new forest conservation policy, the Kenyan government foresees a forest management strategy where local communities play a significant role in the management of the forests. Communities playing an active role in forest management may ensure the long-term survival and conservation of Mbololo forest. In addition, a large part of the forest is still under private land and, therefore, unprotected. With a large portion of the forest within private ownership, local people have a greater role to play in the conservation of the forest.

The conservation of Mbololo forest depends on development of conservation strategies that take into account environmental, economic, and social values of the Taita people living adjacent to the forest. These people are generally poor and many of them rely on the forest for domestic and subsistence use, and most importantly, for domestic water sources. Because they benefit from the forest, they realize the importance of conserving it. However, due to poverty, lack of alternative sources of revenue, and other factors such as crop damage by forest-dwelling animals, forest destruction takes place to support local livelihoods. Therefore, to enhance the conservation of Mbololo forest and reduce forest damage, there is the need to improve the livelihoods of people relying on the forest. Promoting alternative sources of income, thereby reducing dependence on the forest or the need to clear it can enhance forest conservation. Promoting income-generation activities with a direct link to the forest will make communities greatly appreciate the continued existence of the forests. Local people must also play an active role in the management of the forest, which will encourage them to be more vigilant in protecting it against illegal activities such as logging. Expansion of areas under forest cover may alleviate resource extraction pressures from Mbololo forest in the long-term. Target areas for forest restoration may include individual land holdings in form of agroforestry, and in degraded areas within Mbololo forest and neighboring forest.

## Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the African Violet Society of America, Inc. for providing financial support. Also, the National Museums of Kenya and the Botany Department of Miami University, Ohio, for logistical support, the USDA Forest Service for landsat images analysis. Thanks also to Benny Bytebier of the University of Stellenbosch (South Africa), formerly of the Taita Hills Biodiversity Project, for constructive discussions and showing me some of the newly discovered populations, Mr. Jefferson Kiti, the District Forest Officer and Mr. James Mwangombe of East African Wildlife Society for field and logistical support.

## Authors

Kamau Wakanene Mbuthia, National Museums of Kenya  
Kamau\_wakanene@hotmail.com

Gerard Hertel, West Chester University Dudukubwa@hotmail.com

# “And the winners are ...”



**Mary J. Corondan**  
7205 Dillon Court  
Plano, TX 75024

**AVS OF CALGARY, ALBERTA – Winners:** Best in Show/Best Standard: Frosted Whisper; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Cool Fruit; Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia* 'Peaches'; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Florence Douglas**. Best Trailer: Brazos Belle, **Heather Stiller**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia* Sigi Falls, **Louise Johnson**.

**AVS OF PENSACOLA, FL – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Royal Commotion, Nortex's Snowkist Haven, Ward Brown; Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **George Starr**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Rob's Outer Orbit, Ness' Crinkle Blue, **Estelle Starr**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Dan, **Jan Kurtz**. Best Semiminiature: Ness' Cranberry Swirl; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita tamiana*, **Bev Promersberger**. Best Trailer: Foster Trail, **Jean Jones**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Sarah Richardson**.

**AVS OF SPRINGFIELD, PA – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia ionantha*, *Saintpaulia diplotricha* Punter #0, *Saintpaulia grandifolia* #237; Best in Show: Optimara EverLove; Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*; Best Semiminiature: Optimara Little Pueblo; Best Miniature: Jim's Christopher; Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* hybrid; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Barbara Jones**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Mad Cat, Rob's Argyle Socks, Pink Pussycat; Best Trailer: Rob's Lilli Pilli, **Joan Santino**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Nancy Corse**.

**ALBUQUERQUE AVC, NM – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Picasso, Blue is Blue, Raspberry Crisp; Best Standard: Picasso; Best Trailer/Best Species: *Saintpaulia velutina* lite; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpella* hybrid; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Louise Sando**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Twinkle Pink, Sugar Bear Blues, Rob's Dust Storm; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Gretella; Best Miniature: Cherry Glo, **Jo Ellen Bowden**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Margaret Schmierer**.

**CAPITAL DISTRICT AVS, NY – Winners:** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Sarsparilla, Dean's Bunny Blue, Rob's Fuddy Duddy; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Sarsparilla; Best Miniature: Rob's Smarty Pants; Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Margaret Califano**. Best Standard: Hunter Mountain, **Esther Mason**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia* #299; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Little Pink Pixie', **Heidi Dillenbeck**. Best Design, **Andrea Freeman**. Design Sweepstakes, **Vincent Ozimek**.

**THE EVENING AVC OF DES MOINES, IA – Winners:** Best in

Show/Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Standard: Rhapsodie Cora; Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet; Best Trailer: Honeysuckle Rose, **Ken Wilkinson**. Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Petticoat', **Gloria Slater**. Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Angi Allison**. Design Sweepstakes, **Joan Watts**.

**FUNDY VIOLET AND ROYAL SAINTPAULIA, NEW-FOUNDLAND – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rouget, Lela Marie, Fisherman's Paradise; Best Miniature: Rob's Tippy Toe, **Sherin Boyd**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Jeanie Bell, Buckeye Colossal, Maggie Lee, **Jeanie Bell**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Mini Papa, Rob's Antique Rose, Rob's Hallucination; Best in Show/Best Standard: Maggie Lee; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Hallucination; Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula* var. *kizarae*, **Susan Brooks**. Best Trailer: Blustery Trail, **Donna Stark**. Best Gesneriad: *Nematanthus* hybrid, **Anne Moffett**.

**OTTAWA AVS, ONTARIO – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Kev's Meteor Shower, Windy Day, Kris; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Antique Rose, Rob's Scooter, Midnight Rascal; Best Species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Bob McCabe**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Woodland Sprite, Sweet Mama, Optimara Ontario, **Dick Harriman**. Best in Show/Best Trailer: Little Lizzy, **Gerry Pinard**. Best Semiminiature: Rob's Match Point; Best Miniature: Ness' Angel Blush, **Ray Foreman**. Best Gesneriad: *Petrocosmea minor*, **Peter Jago**. Best Design, **Ivy Sayers**. Design Sweepstakes (tie): **Sheila Booth** and **Ivy Sayers**.

**TORONTO AVS, ONTARIO – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Irish Frost, Sapphire Halo, Ceremonial Dance; Best in Show/Best Standard: Irish Maiden, **Lisa Reynolds**. Best Semiminiature: Ness' Cranberry Swirl; Best Miniature: Pyewacket; Best Species: *Saintpaulia* House of Amani; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita* 'Diana Marie'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Carolyn Conlin-Lane**. Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Eleanor Elston**.

**UNION COUNTY NEW JERSEY CHAPTER AVSA, NJ – Winners:** Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ballet Abby, Windy Day, Optimara Michelangelo, **Walther Ott**. Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Rob's Fuddy Duddy, **Vincent Gross**. Best Standard: Vintage Wine, **Jean Peters**. Best Miniature: Rob's Twinkle Blue, **Muriel Lawrence**. Best Trailer/Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula* var. *kizarae*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Marjorie Crosby**. Best Gesneriad: *Chirita linearifolia*, **Tom Cieslik**. Best Design, **Janet Riemer**. Design Sweepstakes, **Chris Brenner**.

# AVSA's BEST VARIETY LIST FOR 2002

Floyd Lawson  
1100 W. Huntington Dr., #21  
Arcadia, CA 91007  
FloydLL@earthlink.net

Welcome to AVSA's 2002 Best Variety List. Thank you to all who participated by regular mail and e-mail. The response to this was very strong. Even though I cannot answer each one, your comments and support are deeply appreciated.

Again this year we list each of the top Twenty-five (26 because of a tie) favorites with their descriptions from AVSA's First Class computer data base. Also included are the 15 top vote getters after the Best 25. Many have asked about species and the List. Yes, they are counted. The top species this year was **S. pendula var. kizarae** (S 8a) 1964 (B. Burt). Single lavender, 2-4 per peduncle, floriferous. Light green, round, hairy, serrated. Trailer.

Now to YOUR choices for the past year! Read the list, read the descriptions, and choose your new favorite for your collection.

1. **Irish Flirt (7577)** 11/07/91 (S. Sorano) Double bright green and white frilled star. Medium green, wavy. Semiminiature
2. **Ness' Crinkle Blue (8136)** 01/19/95 (D. Ness) Double dark blue star/thin white edge. Dark green, quilted, serrated/red back. Semiminiature
3. **Rainbow's Quiet Riot** (R. Wasmund) Semidouble blue-purple large star/white fantasy. Dark green, round, scalloped. Standard
4. **Ode to Beauty (7677)** 02/28/92 (G. Cox/B. Johnson) Semidouble medium coral star/thin raspberry band, white edge. Dark green, plain, quilted. Large
5. **Blue Dragon** (S. Sorano) Semidouble-double pale blue large frilled star/darker eye, red-purple band, variable green edge. Dark green. Large
6. **Picasso (6924)** 10/04/88 (M. Tremblay) Double light blue/white fantasy. Variegated medium green, plain/silver-green back. Large
7. **Frozen In Time** (S. Sorano) Single white sticktite cupped pansy/light green and white fantasy, darker green edge. Variegated dark green and pink, plain. Standard
8. **Melodie Kimi (8100)** 09/15/94 (Sunnyside/Levy) Single white sticktite pansy/purple-blue top petals, tips. Medium green, plain, quilted, wavy. Standard
8. **Milky Way Trail (7169)** 08/01/89 (J. Stahl) Single-semidouble white pansy. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted. Semiminiature trailer
10. **Orchard's Bumble Magnet (8479)** 08/21/96 (R. Wilson) Double pink star. Medium green, plain, pointed. Miniature
10. **Precious Pink (6025)** 07/05/85 (H. Pittman) Semidouble pink. Variegated, plain. Semiminiature
12. **Granger's Wonderland (3419)** 05/01/78 (Eyerdom) Semidouble light blue frilled. Plain, ruffled. Large
12. **Rob's Sticky Wicket (6467)** 01/27/87 (R. Robinson) Semidouble light fuchsia. Medium green, pointed. Semiminiature trailer
12. **The Alps (7813)** 10/03/92 (Horikoshi/Sawara) Single-semidouble chimera white pansy/light blue stripe. Medium green, plain, quilted. Standard
15. **Tiger (3433)** 06/01/78 (I. Fredette) Semidouble dark blue-violet. Variegated. Large
15. **Tomahawk (7269)** 01/22/90 (K. Stork) Semidouble-double bright red. Dark green, plain. Large
17. **Everdina (5566)** 09/30/83 (Inpijn/Nadeau) Double lavender/violet-blue fantasy. Medium green, plain, pointed. Miniature
17. **Pixie Blue (2598)** 09/16/74 (L. Lyon) Single purple-blue/darker center. Plain, ovate. Miniature trailer
19. **Powwow (7708)** 06/15/92 (K. Stork) Semidouble red pansy. Variegated green and cream, plain. Standard
20. **Ness' Satin Rose (8144)** 01/19/95 (D. Ness) Double rose-mauve two-tone star. Dark green, quilted, scalloped/red back. Semiminiature
20. **Windy Day (7719)** 06/15/92 (Stork/Boone) Semidouble medium blue star/white-green ruffled edge. Dark green, pointed, ruffled/red back. Large
22. **Little Pro (6637)** 06/11/87 (H. Pittman) Semidouble pink. Dark green, quilted, pointed/red back. Semiminiature
22. **Mickey Mouse** (H. Inpijn) Double dark blue. Dark green, pointed/red back. Miniature
24. **Falling Snow** (Tracey) Semidouble white. Light green. Semiminiature trailer
24. **Marching Band (8645)** 07/18/97 (K. Stork) Single-semidouble hot pink pansy/raspberry-red sparkle edge. Dark green, plain/red back. Large
24. **Optimara Rose Quartz (6969)** 11/19/88 (Holtkamp) Single-semidouble pink. Medium green, ovate, pointed, glossy, hairy. Miniature

**Runners-up:** Happy Cricket; Harbor Blue; Rebel's Splatter Kake; Cherokee Trail; Dancin' Trail; Halo's Aglitter; Smooch Me; Fisherman's Paradise; Ness' Viking Maiden; Rob's Boogie Woogie; Kiwi Dazzler; Lela Marie; Rob's Fuddy Duddy; Vintage Wine.

# WATERING METHODS

by Marge Huntley

When I first started growing African violets, we used only two methods of watering: watering from the top or setting the pot in a saucer of water for about ten minutes. We always used tepid water, which would have fertilizer added for three out of four waterings. We did not have such a choice of fertilizer brands as we do today. Lots of Fish Emulsion was used.

**STANDING THE POT IN WATER** had certain disadvantages. If the grower forgot to remove the plant from the saucer, the mix could become too wet. The other bad thing was that fertilizer salts rose to the top and very quickly caused a brown crust to develop around the rim. This was unsightly and ate into any petiole that rested on the rim, so healthy leaves were lost. If the grower religiously leached each plant by watering from the top every month and allowed the water to run through, making sure that the pot did not sit in this water, the crust did not develop quite as badly. The practice of re-potting every six months avoided fertilizer build-up.

**TOP WATERING** requires the use of a watering can with a spout fine enough to fit between or under the leaves. The water should be supplied at least to each side of the mix. In three places is even better. Any water on the leaves or in the center of the plant should be dried. Kitchen paper or tissues are very absorbent and do no damage.

Plants are usually handled when watered from the top so it gives the grower an opportunity to study the plant and note if any problem is developing. For example, if the pot feels very heavy, then it does not need more water and could even be developing root or crown rot.

My theory is that all new growers starting in the hobby should water their plants individually, lifting each pot to test its weight. It may not need to be watered that day. A lot can be learned by frequent handling and using your clever eyes; downward leaves can be coaxled to lie straight, etc.

**WICK WATERING** is a self-watering method and consists of: a wick that must be a non-rotting fiber such as acrylic knitting yarn. It must be cut long enough to coil around the inside

base of the pot, emerge from the center hole, and reach the bottom of the reservoir. The plant is then potted in the usual way. New knitting yarn wicks need to be soaked in water with a little dishwashing detergent added. This breaks the surface tension and allows the yarn to conduct water readily.

A reservoir large enough to hold water sufficiently for several weeks is also needed for wick watering. The lid has a hole cut in the middle to allow the wick to dangle through into the water to the base. Reservoirs can be margarine containers, take-out food containers, or ice cream containers for large plants or for long absences.

**Fertilizer** Fill reservoir with tepid water with an appropriate fertilizer added. Most growers use less fertilizer when wick watering than when top watering. Thus, it's wise to start with fertilizer at a half or even quarter rate recommended strength. Appropriate fertilizer means high nitrogen for growth of plants not up to the flowering stage, or high phosphorus for those large enough to flower.

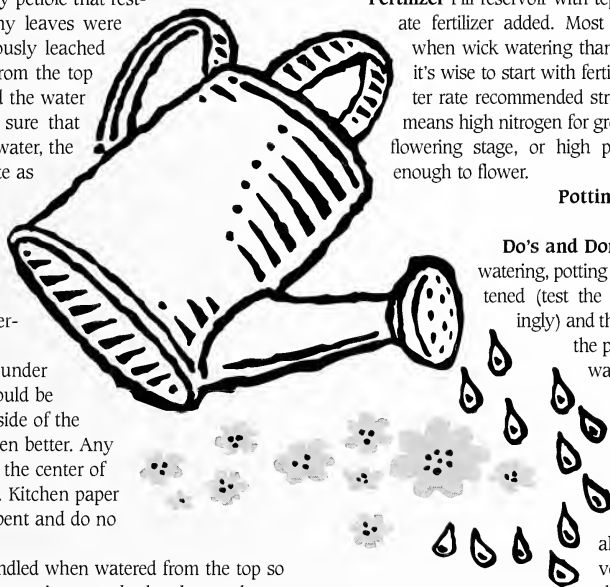
**Potting Mix** should be of a very light consistency.

**Do's and Don'ts.** Before instituting wick watering, potting mix should be slightly moistened (test the weight, and water accordingly) and the wick should be wet. Stand the pot in a saucer of plain, tepid water for about a minute. Don't forget to regularly turn the plant for even growth.

**Leach** fertilizer salts by watering the plant from the top with plain, tepid water. This is usually done when the reservoirs need refilling and/or cleaning. A lot of cleaning

can be avoided by using a plastic bag inside the reservoir. Toss the bag when it is grubby. Some growers put newly potted plants straight onto the system. I advise first timers to put a wick into every plant potted, allow some root growth to take place, and then place on water. So about a month after potting up, there should be enough root growth to take the constant moisture. If growing conditions are cold, wicks should be withdrawn from water until temperature rises.

From the *Newsletter* of the Early Morn African Violet Group, Australia and New Zealand



# Sowing African Violet & Gesneriad Seed

by Libby Watkins

African violet and gesneriad seed is not hard to sow and grow. It is a very easy and economical way to obtain rare and unusual plants, either from a seed fund, a friend, or from crosses that you have made with your own plants.

Begin with a sterile growing medium. You can use milled Canadian sphagnum peat moss, vermiculite, perlite, or a mixture. The mix could contain a fine mix of one part sphagnum moss (screened), one part fine vermiculite, and one part perlite. For a wetter mix, leave out the perlite. Some use milled sphagnum moss alone, but I did not have much luck with it because I think it was too acid. I have found that vermiculite alone stays too wet and rots the seed. I have used tightly compressed, long-fibered sphagnum moss, to grow *Nautilocalyx*, *Germeria*, *Petrocosmece* and *Nasteranthus* with success, usually getting about six good plants per planting. With sinningias, I get the best results with the 1-1-1 mix. They do not seem to be fussy, with the exception of not being too wet. My last batch of *Sinningia* seed was up and started in six days. I sterilize all of my growing mediums with boiling water (just enough to dampen the mix) and then let it cool well before sowing seed. Damping off is the biggest problem when sowing seed.

Containers to place your seed in could be any clear plastic container you can find around the house like shoe boxes, cookie containers, sweater boxes, etc. Use shallow containers for the seed, like cheese spread, sour cream, or margarine tubs, not more than two inches in height. In a pinch, a clear plastic bag could be used for each shallow container tied at the top and placed on a plant stand. You may or may not choose to have drainage holes in the bottom of the containers. I do not use them, but I am very careful not to get too much water in the container. You do not use as much water if the containers are in a sweater box, due to the condensation in the closed container.

Place about an inch of your potting medium in the container. Level it off, but do not pack it down hard. Seeds cannot easily get their first roots into a medium that is too hard. Soak your medium well with any method that works for you - just be sure it is not too wet. Let it set for about a day, keeping it warm. Check to see if the medium is soaked throughout. Dry spots could cause a problem with germination.

Sow the seeds thinly by sprinkling them evenly over the surface of the medium. This can be very hard to do because of the extremely small size of the seed. Some people mix a little fine peat moss with their seed. Some use a magnifying

glass, like I do, which is much easier for me than guessing. If the containers are not covered with a lid, they need to be in a sweater box or in a plastic bag. The seed should be placed in the warmest place in your plant room that also has good light. I have tried placing my seeds on top of the fluorescent light fixture for a few days to heat the container and enhance the germination. On some seeds, sinningias in particular, this works well, but on others I have not noticed a difference. The temperature should be 70 to 80 degrees Fahrenheit in the growing area, or germination will be slower. This is probably why most seed does so well in the spring.

Germination of seed could take from two weeks to five or six months depending on which variety you have sown. Some *Aeschynanthus* and *Chirita* seed takes a very long time. Germination from fresh seed is always better as older seed produces fewer plantlets. However, if seed is properly stored, it retains its viability for a very long time.

When the seeds have germinated, they can be fertilized with a weak solution of fertilizer from a spray bottle so as not to displace the seedlings. Use any fertilizer that works well in your conditions. Let the plant leaves dry after spraying by letting a little air into the container, but don't let the soil dry out or you will lose them very quickly. Also, now that the plants are up and growing, they can be moved closer to the lights, but don't let them get too hot or dry.

When the seedlings have their first and second true leaves and if they are extremely crowded, you can begin to transplant them. Take the largest plantlets out first, using a toothpick or pick them out by the leaves and plant them in 1 1/2 inch pots or a community box. Leave the smaller ones to grow some before moving them. Use a fine mix for growing, and carefully trim off the "baby leaves" using small scissors. If the seedlings are not crowded, let them mature a little longer because bigger plantlets are easier to move than ones you can hardly see. They will also survive better.

After your seedlings have filled their first pot, and depending on the variety of the plant, they can be transplanted into a larger pot. They are ready to join the rest of your plant family on your stands and be treated as a mature plant. If you have many extras, select the ones you wish to keep for showing and growing, and share the others by trading, exchanging, or selling them at club plant sales. Good luck and good growing to all.

From *African Violet Leaves*, publication of the Illinois AVS





**Janice Bruns**  
1220 Stratford Lane  
Hanover Park, IL 60133  
jbruns@attbi.com

A name reservation costs \$1.00 and is valid for two years, after which time it may be extended two years for an additional \$1.00. Registration of the plant is \$5.00 unless completed within the reservation period, in which case the balance is then \$4.00. Please make check payable to AVSA.

**Ruth Bann – Fridley, MN**

\***Rebel's Corabella** (9137) 7/5/02 (R. Bann) Semidouble-double medium blue large ruffled pansy/variable green edge on top petals. Medium green, plain, quilted, glossy. **Large**

\***Rebel's Glory Be** (9138) 7/5/02 (R. Bann) Semidouble-double pink large ruffled star/purple fantasy. **Variegated** dark green and beige, pointed, quilted, serrated. **Standard**

\***Rebel's Meg** (9139) 7/5/02 (R. Bann) Single-semidouble light pink two-tone pansy/cerise-streaked eye. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted, glossy girl foliage. **Semiminiature**

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**Dolores Harrington – Fridley, MN**

\***Flying North** (9140) 7/17/02 (D. Harrington) Single-semidouble pink two-tone ruffled pansy/variable white-green edge. **Variegated** dark green, cream and pink, heart-shaped, quilted, glossy, ruffled, wavy/red back. **Standard**

\***Lucile Roske** (9141) 7/17/02 (D. Harrington) Single red-purple pansy/green ruffled edge. Medium green, heart-shaped, quilted, scalloped. **Standard**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Chandra Jennings – Monmouth Junction, NJ**

\***Cha's Falen Michelle** (9142) 7/23/02 (C. Jennings) Double blue-purple ruffled/variable pink fantasy; red-purple edge. Medium green, scalloped/red back. **Semiminiature**

\***Cha's Pookie** (9143) 7/23/02 (C. Jennings) Single lavender-pink ruffled pansy/purple fantasy. Medium green, quilted, glossy, ruffled/red back. **Standard**

\*\*\*\*\*

**NAME RESERVATIONS**

**Robert Seaton – Ventura, CA**

\* The Dragon Lady \*

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**REGISTRATION CHANGES**

The following blossom or foliage descriptions have been changed at the request of the hybridizers:

**Fuchsia Lace** (9048) Single-semidouble **white** ruffled pansy/**variable fuchsia** edge.

**Peek-a-boo Lace** (9052) Single-semidouble dark purple sticktite ruffled pansy/**variable white** fantasy.

**Rose Bouquet** (9028) Mosaic variegated medium green, **pink** and white, plain, quilted.

**Watch for your Convention 2003  
Purple Pages in the  
January/February 2003  
African Violet Magazine**

# Building A Mobile from the Bottom UP

by John P. Nabers

The AVSA Judges Handbook states that a mobile is a suspended arrangement with *asymmetrically balanced parts capable of moving independently*. When building a mobile, keep in mind the asymmetrical characteristic of this type of design.

Begin with the most basic element by choosing a material for each of the independently moving parts. These parts are the platforms on which to build miniature designs or mini-arrangements. Look for interesting items to use, such as ball moss, seed pods, or nut shells. Such items can be found in the backyard, garden store, or in a craft store. After the correct material is found, spray paint it using a bold color so that it becomes the focal point of the design. Colorful mini-arrangements move the eye to the design and away from the mechanics of the mobile.

Temporarily attach a blossom and some live plant material such as ivy leaves or a sprig of fern to the platform. Make up several of these mini-arrangements in different sizes.



Decide on a background color. A strong solid color that contrasts with the painted mini-arrangements is recommended. Use the same color as the background for all the mechanics.

(Some designers used transparent thread to connect the mobile parts. In my experience transparent thread is difficult to work with because it is tedious to tie knots, and then the knots often slip.)

Select the same color cotton thread as the background. When the horizontal material, such as small bamboo canes or short branches are not part of the design, paint these the same color as the background.

Use a large needle with the thread to pierce through the

mini-arrangement. Allow a significant amount of excess thread before cutting the thread. In that excess thread, tie a series of knots 1/2-inch to 1-inch apart. These knots allow the mini-arrangements to hang freely from the cane or branch at different heights.

Next, tie the thread near each end of the cane or branch, creating an element.



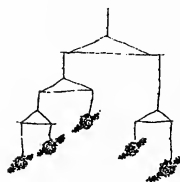
Knot the thread at intervals so that this element can be

hung at the proper height. Keep excess knotted thread until the design is set up in the show room niche. Excess thread makes last minute height adjustments easier and helps fill space.

To balance the mobile, use removable split shot sinkers in different sizes that have previously been painted the same color as the mini-arrangements. To attach the sinkers, use pliers to pinch the lead weight onto the thread close to the mini-arrangements.

These sinkers, purchased at a sporting goods store, come in many different sizes - for example size SS3/0. Keep three or four sizes of the sinkers available to balance the weight of the elements in the mobile. Continue by adding elements.

Keep adjusting the thread until the desired height of each element is obtained. Having a niche made from cardboard about the size stated in the show schedule provides an opportunity to test if the mobile can move freely in the allotted space.



## Attention Club Program Chairmen:

ALL library slide and video requests **MUST** be submitted in **WRITING**.

**PLEASE DO NOT** call the office to inquire about availability.

ALL library materials are rented on a first-come, first-served basis. These are reserved in the order in which we receive the **WRITTEN REQUESTS**.

When sending in your request, include your top three

choices.

Your request **MUST** reach the AVSA office at least **THREE WEEKS** before your program is scheduled. Otherwise, we cannot guarantee delivery by your program date.

You may send in your request by FAX (409-839-4329), email ([avsa@earthlink.net](mailto:avsa@earthlink.net)), or US postal service (AVSA Library, 2375 North St, Beaumont, TX 77702).

# Growing Successfully for Show

by Jenny White

Fortunately, many of us have achieved the ultimate award of "Queen of the Show", and it is certainly a wonderful feeling of achievement after nurturing and preparing plants for at least twelve months for an annual show.

Hopefully, many more members will be able to share this precious moment in the future as well as the joy and satisfaction that comes with it.

There really is no secret to successfully growing African violets - no special fertilizer, as some seem to think. The two main ingredients that lead to success and achieving awards are knowledge and experience.

Knowledge is something one can never have too much of. We continue to learn no matter how much we read. Our club libraries have a very good variety of books available on all aspects of growing African violets and other gesneriads. A strong basic knowledge of African violet requirements is essential to obtain the best conditions possible for your plants. Getting the right environment for growing is one of the most important factors for good results.

Do you know the minimum and maximum temperature of the growing area, the humidity, and the air circulation, etc.? All these figures need to be known to get conditions suitable.

However, as we can only make do with what room is available, this can be more difficult for a grower who is unable to have a special growing area for plants away from their living area. If conditions are not ideal, perhaps there can be changes made for better results. Regardless of where you grow, get to know the conditions of the area, and the culture can be developed to suit.

A special point to remember is that fertilizer is not the main ingredient in producing a show plant. Many times we have been asked what fertilizer we use. The formula for producing a good show plant is a combination of good conditions, suitable potting medium, and a well-balanced fertilizer.

Many fertilizers give a pleasing result if used in accordance with your conditions. If the area is too hot or too cold, too much fertilizer can harm the plants, bringing about poor results such as tight centers, burnt centers, and brittle growth, etc.

Experience takes a long time, perhaps even years, to gather. A lot can be obtained by participating in shows. This is an excellent place to learn about and gain confidence in growing and showing plants. When show time comes around, be prepared to enter your plants and feel proud of your achievement.

Of course, we all fall into the habit from time to time of having far too many plants, causing overcrowding on our stands. This only reduces the tender, loving care and space a

show plant requires.

Be more selective. Choose plants that you know will perform well in your environment.

The conditions in which we grow our plants are fortunately close to ideal. The growing area set up on the lower floor, using half of a double garage as a growing room. Air circulation is quite good without draft, but a small fan is available if required.

Humidity is constantly around 70% to 80%, which only varies when hot westerly winds blow in the summertime. Spray misting with warm water can increase it.

The temperature stays around 60 degrees F - 76 degrees F - a little cooler in winter, a little warmer in summertime. The temperature is never to an extreme that will greatly effect the growth of the violets or require heating.

Like many other growers, we make our own potting mix and have experimented with various recipes. We prefer 3 parts peat, 1 1/2 vermiculite, 1 1/2 perlite, 1/2 charcoal, 2 teaspoons blood and bone, 1 tablespoon crushed egg shell, trace elements, and dolomite lime to obtain a pH of 6.5 to 6.8.

Fertilizer is used at recommended, or a little less, strength and maintained at that strength throughout the year.

Plantlets are placed on community trays, and when mature enough are planted into larger pots and placed on individual tanks. This system takes more work, but it is easier to control a problem, should one arise.

Lighting consists of one cool white and one Gro-lux tube on each bench which run for about twelve hours per day. Ten weeks prior to show time, the lights are increased by one hour weekly for the next three weeks until fifteen hours are acquired. It is during this time we apply bloom booster if required, and then cross our fingers and hope it all goes according to plan.

Pests and disease affect everyone who grows African violets, from time to time. Tackle the problem immediately without becoming too dejected. It is something we all share. Take care that all precautions are taken for the safe use of those poisons.

The culture of our violets has been designed to suit the conditions we are growing in and took a lot of experimenting and testing for a long time to achieve. When preparing for the annual show we still depend on the element of good luck to get that plant flowered just right for that time. It is definitely not all good judgement.

# REPRODUCTION

by Keith Lind

African violet growers are certainly very fortunate to have so many "irons in the fire", so to speak, when it comes to reproduction of their favorite plants. Reproduction by leaf cutting is the most commonly used method. In fact, it is the only method used by most growers.

By using seed resulting from hybridizing one is able to produce a very large number of plants. Unfortunately, few of these bear resemblance to the parent plants, and many are actually very inferior to the parent plants. Many plants will not reproduce true to variety. This is especially so in the case of chimeras

The most commonly used method of propagation to ensure a high percentage of plants alike or similar to the parent plant is to grow from side shoots. Side shoots are produced by most plants from time to time, and it is generally accepted that young plants are more prone to produce side shoots prior to coming into flower for the first time. Side shoots are small plantlets that develop in the axil of some of the leaves where the leaf joins the main stem, or trunk, of the plant. They should not be mistaken for developing flower stalks and are quite easily recognized once the grower has a little experience.

A side shoot has four small leaves, whereas a flower stalk has only two small leaves or leaflets, and the first developing flower bud can be seen positioned in the center of the two tiny leaflets. The flower bud can usually be seen to show some color, making it quite distinguishable from a side shoot.

Side shoots should be removed as soon as recognized so that the plant will direct all its energy into production of roots, leaves, and ultimately flowers. If allowed to remain in the plant, side shoots will continue to grow and cause a multi-crowned plant to develop. Flowering then is inhibited, and the plant loses its pleasing shapeliness or symmetry. Occasionally, side shoots are produced from the main stem or trunk of the plant below soil level, and some people refer to them as suckers. Suckers and side shoots are one and the same thing and should be carefully removed.

These side shoots can be very valuable as a source of new plants which, in a high percentage of cases, are the same as the parent. If using side shoots to grow new plants, allow them to develop until reasonably large enough to handle. They can be removed by using an instrument to gently gouge them away from their point of connection at the base of a leaf. They are also partly connected to the main stem or trunk so that when they come away, a considerable amount of tissue forms the base of the side shoot. Growers all have individual methods of planting side shoots, but basically side shoots can be treated similarly to a plantlet that has been grown from leaf. The only difference is that most side shoots when removed do not have a root system. I use my regular potting mix in a small pot and simply make a small

depression in the mix into which I gently press the base of the side shoot and water sparingly. Do not fertilize for approximately four weeks, at which time the tiny plant should have developed a root system. Once it is seen that the plantlet is growing nicely, it can be treated just like any other African violet and potted on when large enough.

A fourth method of propagation is available by way of use of the flower stalk or peduncle. This, I find, is the most reliable way of obtaining plants that are true to variety. That is to say, they mostly bear the same characteristics as the parent plant.

Chimeras and some fantasies are best propagated by this method, but it can take from six to twelve months or longer to produce plantlets. The flower stalk should be taken from the mother plant when at least one flower on the bunch is fully open. It will be noticed that immediately beneath the flowers and buds two tiny leaves or leaflets project from the flower stalk almost at right angles on either side. Gently cut off all the flowers and flower buds, taking great care that even the tiniest buds are removed. Cut the flower stalk off at about 2 cm below the leaflets. This piece of flower stalk, still with its two leaflets attached, should be planted in a small pot using your favorite potting mix. Dampen the mix and insert the short flower stalk into the mix but leave the two leaflets just above soil level. It is a good idea to make a small terrarium in which to place the pot and set it in a warm position in good light.

Depending on the conditions, tiny shoots should appear in the axils of the two leaflets within about eight weeks, but it does sometimes take much longer. As the shoots appear, try to encourage them to produce roots by gently banking the mix against their base. Do not disturb them until it is seen they are growing into healthy young plantlets (usually eight to twelve weeks from the appearance of shoots). Then they can be potted up and treated like any other African violet.

I somehow always feel that these plantlets are a little bit special, and I tend to watch over them more carefully than those grown by other methods.

I must warn here that not all attempts using this method are successful, as the very small pieces of plant material used tend to rot off. I find, however, that if they survive the first two or three weeks there is a good chance they will produce plantlets.

Now that you are familiar with these methods of propagation, there should be no shortage of plants in your collection. Hopefully, a few will make it to the show tables, and perhaps a few will be left over to sell at club displays and promotions.

From *The African Violet*, publication of the  
AV Association of Australia, Inc.

# Waking up the Tubers

by Ina Beaver

I have had trouble "waking up" some dormant tubers, usually the larger ones that bloom during the summer. Most of these, such as species and compacts, break dormancy during the spring, grow and bloom, and want to rest during the fall and winter.

This is the time I cut off the top or tops, remove all but a couple of inches of stem, all blossoms and buds, pot up in fresh lightly dampened soilless mix, and cover with a baggie. Usually within two weeks, new roots develop followed by a tuber. Tubers are easier to break dormancy, plus I know which end is up! It's easy to tell anyway. The round part is the bottom; the sunken end is the top. Novices find this hard to tell apart.

The tuber is cleaned, placed in a pot slightly larger than the tuber and is buried half-way down in very light, moist, fresh soil. Then, I place them in a covered tray under my plant stand. Periodically I check them, mist very lightly, and when new growth appears they're placed close to the lights or in a lighted window to make sure new growth is compact.

Sometimes a tuber refuses to grow even with a bit of water and light. I've cleaned the tuber, petted and prodded it, and even made tiny slices around the crown. Four years seems to be the limit for a tuber. By burying deep the third year, new tubers usually grow above the old one.

Species and compacts do best in pots just slightly larger than the tuber and top dressed with fresh soil about the middle of the growing season. Need I say, do not let the plant dry out? The sinningias that grow too tall and want to sag can be propped up. I like to put bicycle spokes around the edges and loosely thread green wire or yarn around them. Sometimes even I cut the top off and restart it; the plant may even bloom this way.

*Sinningia speciosas* are spectacular, but prefer growing multi-crowned where the leaves hold each other up. They need very high light to bloom - sets of four lights or a

greenhouse. Keep them growing for a time after blooming to replenish the tubers.

Many of the miniature sinningias never go dormant, but like to have fresh soil three or more times a year. Most develop new crowns occasionally. That's a great time to cut off the old top and start it off fresh. Of all these I find *S. freckles* the most prolific. *S. freckles* is sterile, but most of them readily set seeds. I gently poke the blossoms on the same plant with a clean Q-tip, and when the seed capsule dries, I cut it off and sprinkle seeds, no chaff, on clean paper and label, i.e. *S. hircan selfed*. How's that for knowing how to set seeds? Don't laugh, it works.

## Micro miniature sinningias

Books say terrarium conditions are recommended for micro miniature sinningias. I find they don't get enough fertilizer so they don't do well. Mine live in trays with each other so they get enough moisture from the air. Mine grow in 2 - 2 1/2" pots and need mildly fertilized water about every third day. If they do dry out, they soon make new growth. *S. pusilla* is especially prolific and constantly self seeds.

Sometime tubers develop small ones on their sides. Snap them off, dry a bit, and pot up. I've buried long-necked sinningias, and find new tubers on the stem. No problem; break them off and start new ones.

Try planting *Sinningia* leaves as you do African violet leaves. It seems to take forever to develop tubers. Splitting the leaf stem makes two tubers. Sometimes a new plant grows from the little tuber, but usually it needs a dormant period. Try growing sinningias in pots on matting. I heard of one grower who lays dormant tubers on damp matting until they start to grow.

From *Chatter*, Journal of the AVS of Canada

## JIFFY POTS

by Marge Huntley

Jiffy Pots are pellets of compressed peat contained in fine fabric. To use, they are soaked in water for about ten minutes.

The fine mesh cover does not quite cover the top so needs to be gently peeled back to expose the sowing surface.

Either leave the mesh to make a neat little fence around the seed bed or if it stands up too far it can be trimmed off with scissors. Sow seed on to the damp pellet sparingly. I sometimes spray the surface very carefully to help push the seed into the peat. A violent spray would wash the seed away. I place the pellet on a tray or saucer and cover it with a clear plastic tumbler.



The variety name may be written on the base of the tumbler or on a tiny label made and inserted between the peat and the mesh. Water from the bottom. When seedlings appear, water with well diluted nitrogenous fertilizer. Some seeds will germinate in a week while others could take months.

From the *Newsletter* of the Early Morn AV Group, Australia

# "KNOW WHAT You Grow"

by Sharon Holtzman

When I became a member of the Cincinnati African Violet Society in 1989, I only knew violets by color (e.g., purple, pink). Most of the violets that I had been rescuing from grocery stores for the better part of twenty years did not have names, and it didn't matter. It didn't matter until I entered my first show. That is when I found out about the Master Variety List (MVL) published by the African Violet Society of America. If I wanted to enter one of my violets in the show, my plant had to have a name and a description that sure better match the description given for that name in the MVL.

I have to thank Margie Slye, a member of our club, for helping me prepare for this necessary business of **CLASSIFICATION**, and I am now glad that I took her advice before my collection reached the size it is today.

At that time I did not have my own copy of the MVL, but our club had one in the library. Margie told me to get a little box, the size which holds 3"x5" index cards, and every time I acquired a new violet I should look the name up in the MVL. On my card I was to write: the name of my violet, the name of the hybridizer, the registration number, if there was one, and the description that was given by AVSA. I started this back in 1989, and I am still doing it today.

In addition to being prepared to enter your plant in a violet show, by keeping these descriptive records as soon as you acquire a new plant, you can help stop the spread of misnamed violets. If I bought a violet with an incorrect name shared leaves with five of my fellow club members, and they, in turn, shared babies with friends...see the potential for a major problem at show time? This is just the kind of thing that can bring the process of classification to a grinding halt.

It should be the responsibility of the grower to know what they are growing and classify their own plants before they bring them to a show.

Even though I still keep my records on index cards, I look up the descriptions with the aid of the First Class Program that I have on my computer. I print the descriptions out on label form and tape them to my card.

If you have new members in your club, remember that all of this is a real mystery to them. Please take the time to explain all about the process of classification so that they feel comfortable and confident at show time.

From *The Violet Connection*,  
publication of the Ohio State AVS



## Fertilizing the Show Plant

by Dorothy Kosowsky • Whittier, CA

Fertilizers can be a very tricky problem for some growers. The numbers are of primary importance (20 - 20 - 20, etc.) because they give the exact amount of each property you are giving your plant. The first number gives the amount of available Nitrogen, the second number gives you the amount of Phosphorus, and the third, the soluble Potassium.

You need to know the proportions of Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Potassium for two reasons. One, to properly feed your plants and two, to determine the cost effectiveness. If the numbers read something like 0 - 30 - 30 (a special orchid mix) you know you will not be giving your plant any nitrogen. Many of the general purpose fertilizers add up to 60, and if you are careful in using the product and looking for optimum growth, this is the most economical. Lower numbers like 0.15 - 0.85 - 0.55 will insure no fertilizer burn, but may result in some very yellow outer leaves that indicate the plant was starved for Nitrogen. Another problem is that the bloom count is often very

low and would have been improved with increased Phosphorus. The low numbers are no bargain, as your plant can be starved. While you can't look at the roots of a plant being shown, they are the foundation for good, healthy growth and this is furnished by the Potassium.

Another consideration for show plants has to do with foliar feeding. This is a very efficient means of getting good growth and the best use of the product. The plant is able to use all of the solution lightly misted onto the plant while a solution on the soil is a 90% loss.

If you have good luck with low number products, great. However, if yellowing leaves, poor bloom count, and mediocre growth are present, look at those numbers again and see about a change. Above all, read the label and FOLLOW DIRECTIONS.

From *The California Council News*

NOVEMBER • DECEMBER 2002

# WINTER THOUGHTS

by Margie Kotliar

With the approach of winter, plants that have been growing outside have been returned indoors. Continue to inspect all plants carefully, especially those that have been outside, for the presence of hitchhikers. Returning plants should remain in isolation as long as possible. Some growers with plenty of space prefer to keep plants that have been outside in a separate room with their new plants.

Other growers may use a routine preventative insecticide program. It is important to carefully follow safety precautions. Most pesticides indicate the toxicity to both plants and animals on their label or a number to call for that information. If a phone number is not available or more information is needed, contact the vender. Most vendors can tell you where to get the information if they don't know the answer.

It is important to correctly determine exactly which pest is present. Just using any pesticide in a 'hit or miss' manner can result in those little critters becoming immune to the pesticide.

Plants growing on windowsills in the colder areas may have to be moved slightly away from the window to prevent damage due to the cold. Fortunately, African violets are very tough. When I lived in New Jersey, I grew African violets on

window sill shelves in a north window in the coldest room. We had storm windows so I never even bothered to add any protection between the plants and the window. One winter during a very cold spell, our furnace was broken for several days. Surprisingly, all of my plants survived, and they suffered absolutely no damage.

Extra care may be necessary to make sure that plants do not get too dry in heated areas and that the proper humidity is provided. Areas such as basements may get quite cool, and care must be taken that plants do not stay too wet. Maintaining excellent air circulation and cleanliness are also crucial. Some growers also place saucers of sulfur on the shelves to prevent mildew. Infected plants may be treated with a fungicide or a spray of Lysol.

Winter is the time to send for the new African violet catalogues, to make your wish list, and get your spring order in early.

Remember, African violets and the other gesneriads make beautiful holiday decorations and gifts.

From the *The Dixie News*

## DRYING FLOWERS IN THE MICROWAVE

Edited by Suzanne Ress from a posting to the AVConnection Internet forum

All those beautiful blossoms do not have to "go to waste." They can be dried and used decoratively in crafts - on greeting cards, as a mounted display, or any way you can imagine. Basic supplies for drying in the microwave can be bought at home improvement or fabric stores. I have seen kits available in some garden supply catalogues.

### General Directions

The microwave flower drying kit consists of two terra cotta tiles, four pieces of white felt, and two pieces of white cotton fabric.

Take your flowers and sandwich them in between the pieces like a flower sandwich: tile, 2 felt pieces, cotton piece, flowers, cotton piece, felt pieces, and top with the remaining tile.

Microwave for the appropriate time. You will need to experiment to find out what works best. I got good results with single blossoms by microwaving at full power for one minute, waiting about five minutes, microwave for thirty seconds, wait again, then a final microwave for thirty seconds.

After microwaving, let the whole thing cool, until the tiles are just warm, before removing the flowers. Carefully peel away the layers of material, and you have a beautifully dried, onion skin-thin flower.

If the flower breaks apart, you have microwaved it for too long. If the flower still appears too moist, cover it back up and stick it back in the microwave for a bit longer. Experiment first.

Don't use your last favorite flower for experimentation. When drying larger blossoms, you will need to microwave longer than with smaller blossoms, but use a shorter microwave time, perhaps twenty seconds. Wipe extra moisture off the inside of the tile.

If the flower is dried properly, it should peel away easily from the cotton fabric in one piece. Drying flowers of the same size together should give more uniform results, rather than trying to dry a big, double blossom along with a smaller single blossom.

### Important Information:

Some "fading" characteristics can't be avoided. For example, purples tend to turn darker, and whites tend to brown slightly.

The white pieces of cotton will stain. You should wash them every so often.

Cut a piece of cardboard to set the tiles on, like a small tray. It makes it easier to get the tiles in and out of the microwave without jiggling them and possibly disturbing the positioning of the flowers.

You can use rubber bands around the tiles to keep them in place, if you like.

Once dried, the flowers make great decorations for cards, cakes, or other craft ideas.

From *Ye Bay Stater*, publication of the Bay State AVS

# The Qualities of Constructive Comments While Judging

by Bob L. Green

When a violet show exhibitor reads specific words aimed at his African violet or design, he knows that some real, live human being (a judge) has taken the time to search for phrases to convey a helpful or constructive message especially for him.

Good manners must enter into a judge's choice of words, partly because they are due in propriety toward the exhibitor, and partly because a judge's own dignity demands them of the writer. Clear, concise, well-written comments compliment an exhibitor; careless and sarcastic comments demean a judge.

The time element involved in judging necessitates concise, precise statements - short, definite, and pared down to the essentials. There is no time to write a lecture, and a judge should avoid giving one verbally that delays the judging. The written words should be definite, expressing the meaning as precisely as possible. The words must be logical, reasonable, and tailor-made for the exhibit. They must be correct, lucid, and easily verified by observing the exhibit.

Thus, the qualities of constructive comments are that they be instructive, clear, concise, and logical. Constructive comments give exhibitors encouragement to do better in the future, while acknowledging efforts already made.

The panel of judges should agree on the comments to be written, and one of the judges should be designated by the panel to do this. Or, better yet, each of the judges should take a turn writing the comments. The panel should never delegate this task to the clerks, as they may misunderstand or misinterpret.

Constructive comments must never contain "I's" - such as "I don't like," "I don't feel happy with...", "I like," or "I wish," etc. Good judging is always objective, never subjective.

A judge should not use slang expressions, or any word that might be misconstrued by either an exhibitor or a member of the viewing public. A judge should take an extra second to reread the written comment and ask himself, "Would I understand this?"

A few short comments written by a judge on an exhibit card tells the exhibitor and the viewing public the extent of that judge's experience, knowledge, justice, and tolerance. Careless words, written in haste on an exhibit card, become the autobiography of the judge who wrote them. And they may very well be the obituary of the hopes of an exhibitor who tried and now will no longer have the courage to try again.

Examples of good, constructive comments are:

- Delightful coloration of blooms, but your bloom count is low.
- A mass of blossoms, but many appear to be weary.
- It's good to see an "oldie" in a show again, but the secondary leaves should have been removed.
- A lovely, clean plant; but lacks enough blossoms for its size.
- Maximum statement with minimum material, but your mechanics need to be better concealed.
- Ingenious interpretation, but part of your line material is touching the back of the niche.
- Pleasing color and texture coordination, but all your material appears to be on one plane.

From *The Florida Connection*,  
publication of the AV Council of Florida



## Just in time for the holidays!

by Marjorie Bullard

The winners and best in class of many entries from the 2002 AVSA National Convention in Washington, D.C. have been put to music and released on a CD for your enjoyment. These are the highlights from the show in a magnificently constructed presentation - far exceeding what was expected. The best from both horticulture and design categories are included.

The violets are the stars, of course, and the photography is breathtaking! They are presented against a backdrop of

Handel's "Music for the Royal Fireworks", with a few tantalizing glimpses of some of that black leather from The Rolling Thunder motorcycle group.

The cost is \$9.95, and it is available from the AVSA Office. Tel: 406-839-4725 or 1-800-770-2872. Or email Jenny at [avsa@earthlink.net](mailto:avsa@earthlink.net). You will want to make sure you have a computer with adequate CPU speed (233 Mhz Pentium II minimum) and at least 128 Mb of free memory. Best if viewed at a display setting of 1024 x 768 or higher.



# Why We Should Use Light Potting Mix

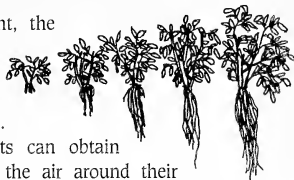
by Sue Gardner

Recently some have complained that their plants are slow growing. Perhaps the potting mix used is not aerated enough. Perlite is used to allow pockets of air to exist in our pots. If your potting mix appears too compact, perhaps you could add a little perlite to allow more air for root growth.

The foliage of a plant is surrounded by air. However, the amount of oxygen (20% of air) profoundly affects the growth of roots, and this in turn, will affect the rest of the plant. Thus, well aerated potting mix is essential.

This point has been well illustrated by experiments with tomato plants. In the diagram, the amount of growth of roots and foliage changes dramatically according to the amount of oxygen available to the roots. The last plant (20% oxygen) exhibits normal growth.

From left to right, the amount of oxygen supplied to roots is 1% , 3%, 5%, 10%, and 20% (normal air).



Unless our plants can obtain sufficient oxygen in the air around their roots, retarded growth will occur.

Make sure you do not compact your potting mix, and add perlite if you find it becoming water-logged.

From the *Newsletter* of the  
Early Morn African Violet Group, Australia

## In Memory

### MARY LANKFORD

Mary Lankford of San Antonio, Texas recently passed away. She was a longtime member of AVSA, Dixie AVS, Lone Star AV Council, and the Central Texas Judge's Council. Before moving to San Antonio in 1997, Mary was a member of the First AVS of Dallas. She served as president of the club, as well as many other positions. In San Antonio, Mary was a member of the First Austin AVS and the Magic Knight AVS of San Antonio. Mary will always have a special place in the hearts of those who knew her.

### SUZY JOHNSON

Suzy Johnson of Orlando, Florida passed away in July 2002. She was a founder and member of Central Florida AVS since 1971. Suzy was a past president of the club, as well as a Master Judge and Teacher. She happily gave many years to growing and judging African violets.



### THOMAS F. CIESLIK

Tom Cieslik of New Jersey passed away in June 2002. He was a member of Central Jersey AVS, Union County Chapter of AVSA, the Tristate AV Council, and other horticultural groups in New Jersey. Tom was a Master Gardener and a member of the Metropolitan Chapter of the Indoor Gardening Society of America. Tom was a loyal and dedicated member who served his various clubs with pride, enthusiasm, and humor.

## Coming Events



### November 1 & 2 - TEXAS

Lone Star AV Council State Convention  
Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites  
7787 Katy Freeway  
Houston, TX  
Info: Vickie Crider (281) 358 - 3298  
Email: vcrider@ev1.net

### November 1 - FLORIDA

Suncoast AVC Show/Sale  
St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church  
3747 34th St, S  
St. Petersburg, FL  
Info: Sue MacFarlane (727) 866-8830  
Email: smacfarl@tampabay.rr.com

### November 2 & 3 - NEW JERSEY

Tristate AV Council Judged Show/Sale  
Frelinghuysen Arboretum  
53 East Hanover Ave.  
Morristown, NJ  
Nov 2 - 1:30 - 5pm  
Nov 3 - 11am - 4pm  
Info: Jill Fischer (908) 464-4417

### November 2 & 3 - MISSOURI

Mid-America AVS  
23rd Annual Show/Sale  
Loose Park Garden Center  
5200 Pennsylvania  
Kansas City, MO  
Both Days: 10am - 3pm  
Info: Grace McCurin (913) 722-4085  
Email: vngmc@planetkc.com

### November 18 - CALIFORNIA

Town and Country AVS  
43rd Birthday Sale  
Redlands Church of Christ  
1000 Roosevelt Rd  
Redlands, CA  
Hours: 10am - 5pm  
Info: (909) 792-6816



# The Moon's Phases

Everyone has seen the Moon wax and wane through a period of approximately twenty-nine and a half days. This circuit from New Moon to Full Moon and back again is called the lunation cycle. The cycle is divided into parts, called quarters or phases.

## First Quarter

The first quarter begins at the New Moon, when the Sun and Moon are conjunct. (The Sun and Moon are in the same degree of the same sign.) The Moon is not visible at first, since it rises at the same time as the Sun. The New Moon phase is a time for new beginnings that favor growth, the externalization of activities, and the expansion of ideas. The first quarter is the time of germination, emergence, and beginnings.

## Second Quarter

The second quarter begins halfway between the New Moon and the Full Moon, when the Sun and Moon are ninety degrees apart. This half Moon rises around noon and sets around midnight, so it can be seen in the western sky during the first half of the night. The second quarter is the time of

growth, development, and articulation of things that already exist.

## Third Quarter

The third quarter begins at the Full Moon, when the Sun is opposite the Moon and its full light can shine on the full sphere of the Moon. The round Moon can be seen rising in the east at sunset, and then rising a little later each evening. The third quarter is a time of maturity and fruition.

## Fourth Quarter

The fourth quarter begins about halfway between the Full Moon and New Moon, when the Sun and Moon are again at ninety degrees. This decreasing Moon rises at midnight, and can be seen in the east during the last half of the night, reaching the overhead position just about as the Sun rises. The fourth quarter is a time of disintegration, drawing back for reorganization, and for reflection.

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(1) Paid (Outside-County Mail Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541 (include advertiser's proof and exchange copies))	7,503	7,618	
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g. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15f)		7,722	7,773
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17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner Jenny Daugereau Administrative Coordinator			
I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).			

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P/S Form 3526, October 1999 (Reverse)

# Planting by Moon Signs

## Moon in Aries

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds, pests, etc., and for cultivating.

## Moon in Taurus

Productive and moist, earthy and feminine. Used for planting many crops, particularly potatoes and root crops, and when hardness is important. Also used for lettuce, cabbage, and similar leafy vegetables.

## Moon in Gemini

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds and pests, and for cultivation.

## Moon in Cancer

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. This is the most productive sign, used extensively for planting and irrigation.

## Moon in Leo

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. This is the most barren sign, used only for killing weeds and for cultivation.

## Moon in Virgo

Barren and moist, earthy and feminine. Good for cultivation and destroying weeds and pests.

## Moon in Libra

Semi-fruitful and moist, airy and masculine. Used for planting many crops and producing good pulp growth and roots. A very good sign for flowers and vines. Also used for seeding hay, corn fodder, etc.

## Moon in Scorpio

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Nearly as productive as Cancer; used for the same purposes. Especially good for vine growth and sturdiness.

## Moon in Sagittarius

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for planting onions, seeding hay, and for cultivation.

## Moon in Capricorn

Productive and dry, earthy and feminine. Used for planting potatoes, tubers, etc.

## Moon in Aquarius

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for cultivation and destroying noxious growths, weeds, and pests.

## Moon in Pisces

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Used along with Cancer and Scorpio, especially good for root growth.

November Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Fri. 8:28 pm	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	4th
2 Sat.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	4th
3 Sun. 8:10 pm	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th
4 Mon.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	New 3:34 pm
5 Tue. 8:01 pm	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	1st
6 Wed.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	1st
7 Thu. 9:59 pm	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	1st
8 Fri.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	1st
9 Sat.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	1st
10 Sun. 3:27 am	Aquarius	Air	Barren	1st
11 Mon.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	2nd 3:52 pm
12 Tue. 12:42 pm	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	2nd
13 Wed.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	2nd
14 Thu.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	2nd
15 Fri. 12:38 am	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd
16 Sat.	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd
17 Sun. 1:23 pm	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	2nd
18 Mon.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	2nd
19 Tue.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	Full 8:34 pm
20 Wed. 1:25 am	Gemini	Air	Barren	3rd
21 Thu.	Gemini	Air	Barren	3rd
22 Fri. 11:48 am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	3rd
23 Sat.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	3rd
24 Sun. 8:00 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	3rd
25 Mon.	Leo	Fire	Barren	3rd
26 Tue.	Leo	Fire	Barren	3rd
27 Wed. 1:42 am	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th 10:46 am
28 Thu.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	4th
29 Fri. 4:54 am	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	4th
30 Sat.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	4th

December Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase
1 Sun. 6:15 am	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th
2 Mon.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th
3 Tue. 6:58 am	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	4th
4 Wed.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	New 2:34 am
5 Thu. 8:39 am	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	1st
6 Fri.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	1st
7 Sat. 12:54 pm	Aquarius	Air	Barren	1st
8 Sun.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	1st
9 Mon. 8:46 pm	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	1st
10 Tue.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	1st
11 Wed.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	2nd 10:49 am
12 Thu. 7:58 am	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd
13 Fri.	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd
14 Sat. 8:43 pm	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	2nd
15 Sun.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	2nd
16 Mon.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	2nd
17 Tue. 8:43 am	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd
18 Wed.	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd
19 Thu. 6:30 pm	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	Full 2:10 pm
20 Fri.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	3rd
21 Sat.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	3rd
22 Sun. 1:48 am	Leo	Fire	Barren	3rd
23 Mon.	Leo	Fire	Barren	3rd
24 Tue. 7:05 am	Virgo	Earth	Barren	3rd
25 Wed.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	3rd
26 Thu. 10:53 am	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	4th 7:31 pm
27 Fri.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	4th
28 Sat. 1:41 pm	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th
29 Sun.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th
30 Mon. 4:01 pm	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	4th
31 Tue.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	4th

Reprinted with permission from *Llewellyn's 2002 Moon Sign Book*, published by Llewellyn Publications, ISBN 0-7387-0031-2

# Growing Better Violets With Less

by Susan Gimblet

While I was working full time, it seemed I was always rushed to care for my African violets. Time was at a premium. When I finally quit my full time job, I was very excited about being able to spend more time with my violets and really take proper care of them. Well here I am, two and a half years later, and I still do not have enough time to really care for my plants!

Because there never seems to be enough time, I have tried to limit the number of violets I grow and to streamline my growing process. I grow each 4" violet I have as a potential show plant. I have two large plant stands with a total of five shelves. The violet collection is limited to the number of plants that will fit on these five shelves.

Prior to each Bay State spring show, I put down leaves for violets that I want to keep. I then sell most of my plants, keeping 4" pots of only a limited number of violets. Any new acquisitions are either leaves or 2" plants. After the spring show, I repot all the violets I have left. By going through this process, my collection of violets is at a minimum during the hot summer months. This serves a two-fold purpose, first to reduce the number of shelves that need to be lighted along with the associated heat, and second it enables me to enjoy the summer and my outside gardens. Note: in addition, this year I tried something new, cutting back the number of hours that the lights are on to just eight hours a day.

By Labor Day, my violets are getting pretty straggly. At this writing, I have just finished a marathon session removing undersized leaves from the outer row of the plants and disbud-ding everything. I had heavily treated all my plants before and after the spring show. This had resulted in some undersized and stunted leaves. However, all the new growth looks great, even with the hot summer and the reduced light. The leaves I

potted have babies and are ready to be divided. I save only two or three babies from each variety, trying to keep things simple and not have too many plants.

Repotting is done twice a year, once in the spring, after the show, and again in the fall, usually about October. By repotting in early fall, I find the plants grow well through the winter months and, hopefully, only need limited work prior to the next show. All babies go into 2 1/2" pots and then directly into 4" pots. I have not had much success with growing violets in 5" or 6" pots.

As mentioned, all my violets are grown under lights. For the past two years, I have had the lights on for just ten hours per day, rather than the traditional twelve hours. This has worked quite well with my growing conditions. For fertilizer, I use a four week rotation of 20-20-20, 15-16-17, Bounty and Sturdy, and plain water, watering weekly. I wick water about 1/3 of the violets and top water the remaining ones based solely on what I have available for plant stands. I often place plants on wicks that I think will be my 'best' plants, but some of my best plants have been the ones that were top watered. Another reason I prefer to have a limited number of African violets is so that each violet has adequate space and air circulation. This helps to prevent the spread of disease and allows the leaves to grow even and flat, without touching.

As the spring show again approaches, I follow the guidelines in Pauline Bartholomew's book "Growing to Show". By treating all 4" plants as potential show plants, I have a good selection of plants from which to choose entries for the show, even though I am growing a limited number of plants.

From *Ye Bay Stater*, publication of the Bay State AVS



# More on Mildew

by Mary Alice O'Connor • Naples, Florida

Fans and Lysol didn't help here in the mildew capitol of the world. I am very grateful for Catherine Thompson's invention of the Miraculous Mildew Muncher (AVM, May/June, 1999, p. 19) because I used it, and it worked. In spite of all that shakin' going on, the sprayer clogged.

At a home improvement center, I bought a bag of Security Brand Nutonex Wettable Sulphur and used 1/2 teaspoon per one cup very hot water and a dash of Safer's Plant Soap. It is necessary to keep shaking the sprayer because the sulphur sinks to the bottom; it won't clog the sprayer because it mixes with the water. This leaves a residue on the leaves but does no damage.

Then AVSA member Susan Buckley, battling powdery

mildew like I was, wondered about Safer's Garden Fungicide which is .4% sulphur. I tested this product and found it neither leaves a residue nor harms the leaves, but some flowers were slightly damaged.

With both experiments, I did not spray to run-off, just misted, as Catherine did. I left the lights off for one day.

It would be best to carefully watch plants before a show, and if you need to spray, do it early. After an upcoming craft show where I sell plants is over, I plan to try a light spray-over to see if it's preventive. As always, I tried all of the above on only a few plants. Oh yes, I tried it on some sinningias and a *Columnnea*, with no ill effects.

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## Pest Treatments

by Sue Hodges

From time to time, people suggest treatments as an alternative to using pesticides. Several have come to my notice lately and may be of interest. Please remember to try any treatment on a few plants first, just in case it does cause damage to your plants. Growers have suggested all these recipes and hints, but I have not tested any of them as yet so please be wary.

*"Probably the best overall insecticide recipe is made from dishwashing liquid and cooking oil. It should be applied more frequently than chemical pesticides, but then again, you don't really want to use poison inside your home. Here is the recipe:*

*1/2 teaspoon dishwashing liquid*

*1/4 teaspoon cooking oil*

*1 quart warm water.*

*Mix all ingredients in a small spray bottle. Mist upper and under sides of leaves every 10 days to control mealy bug, spider mite, aphids, thrips, or any other sucking or chewing insects."*

This year mildew has been a dreadful problem. It is

possible that the following treatments may damage flowers.

*"Fungicides are among the most toxic chemical in the gardeners arsenal. Here are three different alternative for you to try. Perhaps one will work for you.*

- *Listerine - Mix 1 teaspoon of Listerine into 1 quart of warm water*

- *Hydrogen Peroxide - 1 tablespoon per gallon of water*

- *1/2 teaspoon baking soda, 1/4 teaspoon cooking oil in 1 quart warm water.*

*All of the above recipes should be mixed directly into the sprayer and applied every 10 days or until there is no evidence of fungus."*

Some interesting alternate treatments, but, as I said, take care when trying anything new!

From the *African Violet News*,

Official Journal of the AV-Gesneriad Society of NSW, Inc.

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## The Vigor of the Young

by Sharon Corton

Through articles and discussions, I have learned that the best leaf to put down to create plantlets is a healthy leaf from a healthy plant that is "not too young and not too old". Our club has ordered such leaves, and we have exchanged such leaves on an ongoing basis. I have used these healthy "not too young and not too old" leaves for years to create plantlets, and it has worked beautifully.

Recently, when I had gotten a violet that I really cherished, I wanted to immediately "drop a leaf". The thought of growing up plantlets while the main plant was acclimating to my indoor garden was appealing to me. I was also concerned that if something happened to the acclimating parent plant, I would have nothing of that plant if I hadn't put down a leaf. However, this parent plant was small, and I realized that the only leaf to take

off was a seed leaf.

Seed leaves are the very first immature leaves that a plantlet will create and are considered "too young" to use as the dropped leaf. However, since seed leaves were all I had at this point, I decided to try them. I also decided to try other seed leaves from plantlets that I had. I put down fifteen seed leaves to try this "experiment in the interest of science". Within one week ALL these seed leaves had rooted, and within two weeks ALL were throwing out lovely little plantlets that have successfully grown into healthy full-sized plants! The older I get, the more I am aware of the vigor of the young in a lot of species! Seed leaf violets seem to agree.

From *Ye Bay Stater*, publication of the Bay State AVS

AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE 59

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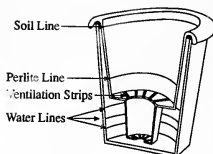
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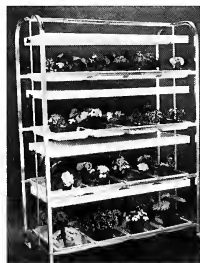
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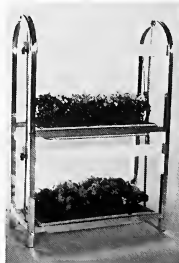
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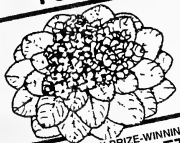


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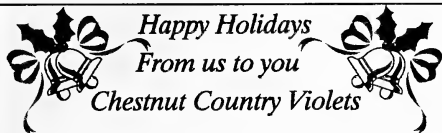
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to humbly express our special thanks to each and every customer, all  
African violet growers, and friendly competitors.

All our staff joins me in this farewell announcement; many have come  
to know you personally over the years.

We miss Frank and the special love he had for our patrons and the  
greenhouse operation. But time has come to say good-bye to the business  
that has been an interesting and fascinating part of our lives.

I shall ever remain a devoted African Violet Society of America Life  
Member. I will support and participate with enthusiasm in its interests and  
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2-3/8"	Wt. or TC	Rd. Tub	1.10	2.25	4.25	8.00	38.00
2-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. or Sq.	1.15	2.40	4.55	8.60	40.50
3"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub, Std. Sq.	1.30	2.95	5.25	9.80	44.50
3-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	1.45	3.60	6.60	12.00	55.00
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4-1/2"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.40	5.60	8.00	15.50	73.00
5"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	2.90	6.75	12.50	23.00	105.00
6"	Gr. or Wt.	Rd. Tub	3.40	8.20	15.40	28.80	134.00
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16 oz	3"	4-1/2"	5"	4.00	9.50	17.00	32.00	150.00
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4"-5"-6"

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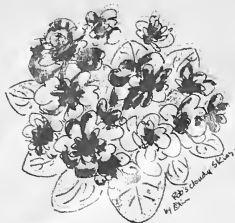
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3-12-6	Bloom	4.95	7.95	12.00
9-3-6	Foliage Pro	4.95		11.00
0-0-3	Pro-Tekt	4.95		10.00
Concentrate	K-L-N	10.00		
Neem Oil		11.50		
Dolomite Limestone				2 lbs./\$1.75
Charcoal		20 oz.		40 oz.
No. 4 Coarse or	No. 6 Medium	1.85		3.50
Vermiculite	No. 2 Coarse	1.75	4 qts.	8 qts.
Perlite	Coarse	1.75	3.00	5.75
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**MA'S CORSAGE.** Fully double pink pansies w/frilly light green edges; quilted foliage w/lovely variegation. Very heavy bloomer, very showy.

**MA'S DEBUTANTE.** Terrific showplant! Sparkling sdbl. pink pansies over wonderful, heavily variegated show foliage. Very heavy bloomer, very easy grower.

**MA'S SECOND THOUGHTS.** A wonderful plant that's become a favorite of ours. Lots of sdbl. pink pansies with nice white edging, excellent variegated show foliage. Excellent.

**MA'S SOIREE.** Lovely sdbl. deep fuchsia-red, heavily ruffled pansies on heavily serrated, heavily variegated foliage. A striking combination of colors

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**ROB'S BED BUG.** Loads and loads of sdbl. dark red pansies over great, dark green and gold Champion variegated foliage. Extremely heavy bloomer and fantastic semimini showplant.

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**BRISTOL'S HOP ALONG.** Fully double medium blue pansies w/white petal backs. Adorable blooms held happily above compact foliage.

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**BRISTOL'S MEOW MEOW.** Large single to sdbl. white blooms w/thin red-purple lines on petals. Very easy grower.

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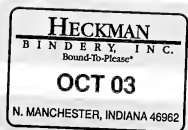












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